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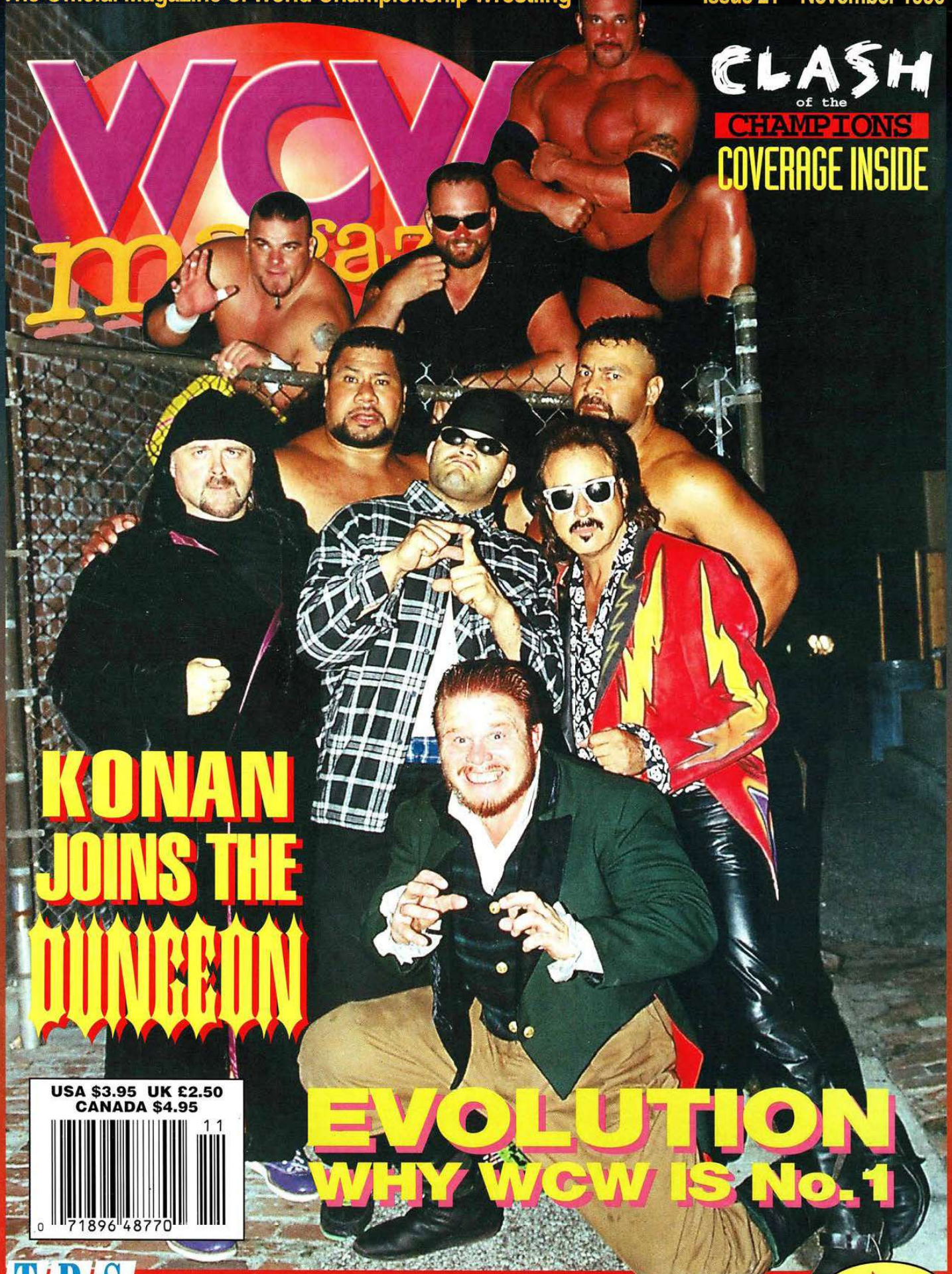
Issue 21 November 1996

WCW magazine

CLASH of the CHAMPIONS
COVERAGE INSIDE



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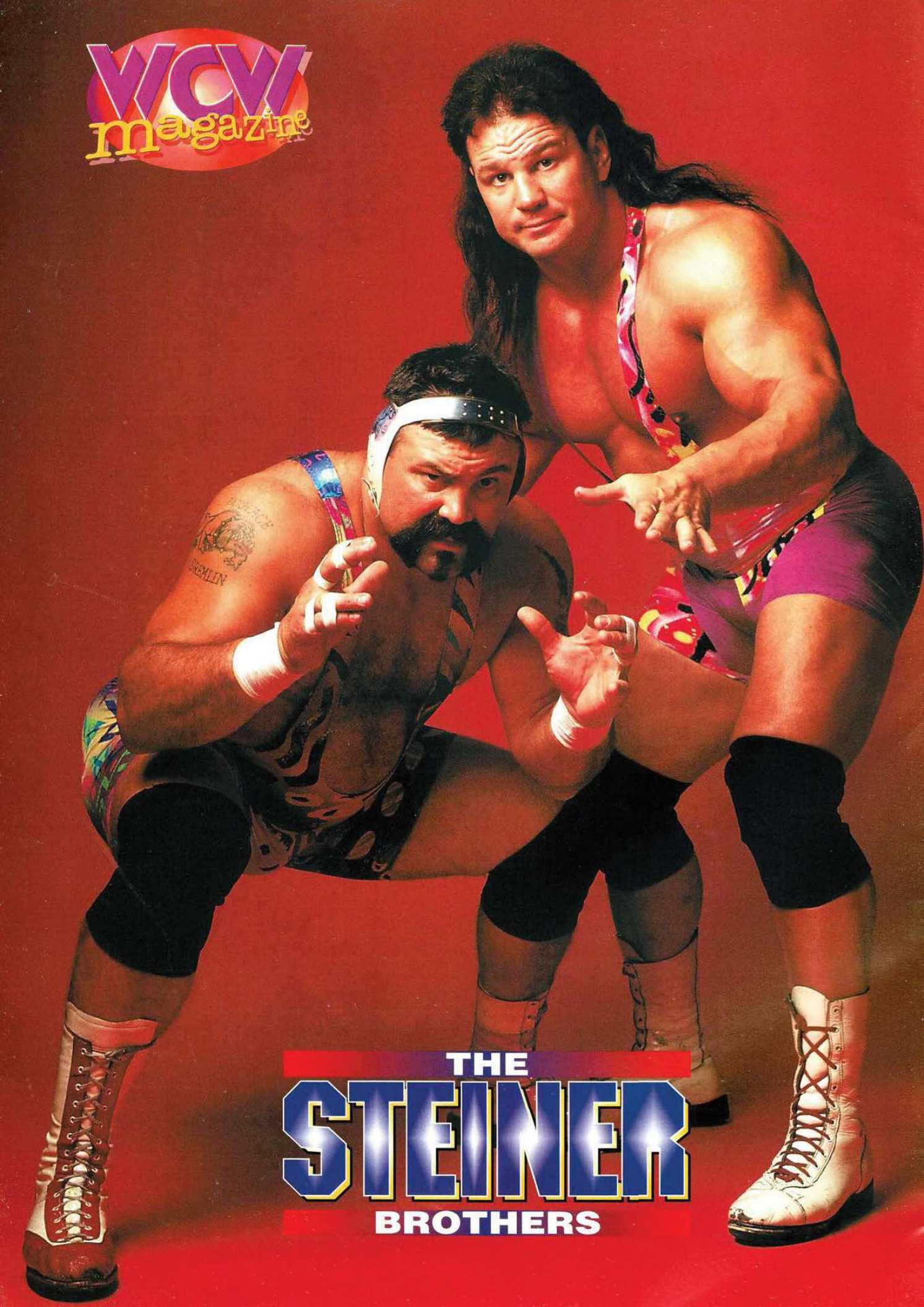
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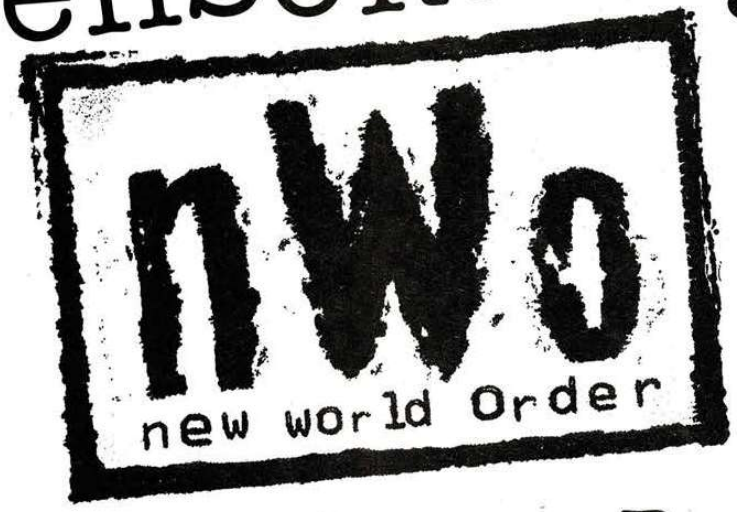

Doing WhaTeveR We Want, WhEneveR We Want, WhEREVer We Want,

vman
editor

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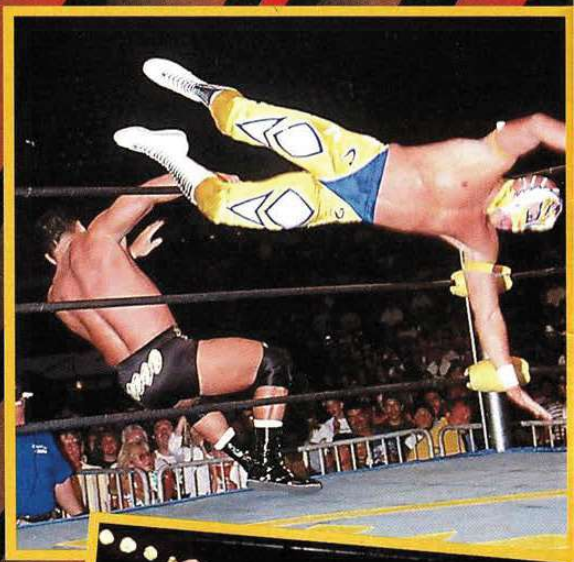
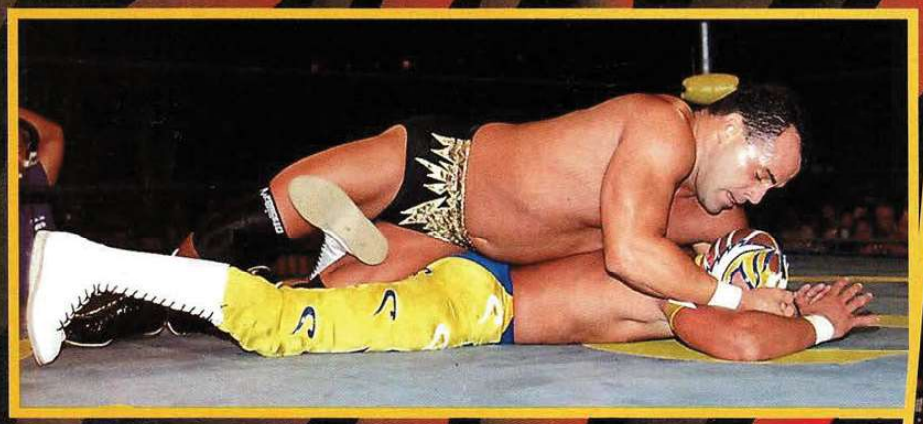
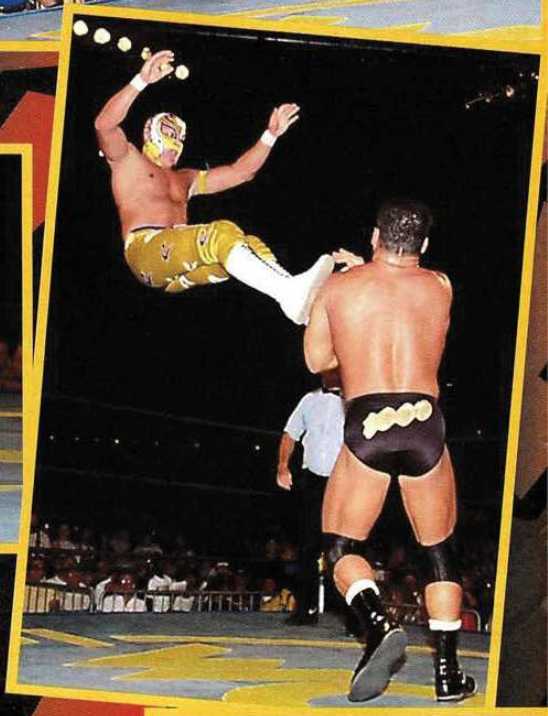
CLASH of the CHAMPIONS



There was madness in the Mile High City in mid-August, all thanks to World Championship Wrestling — and, as has been the case for oh-so-long, the thugs from The New World Order. On a Thursday evening at the sold out Denver Coliseum, WCW presented Clash of the Champions, a nine-match mega-show that was broadcast live on TBS. Tony Schiavone and Bobby "The Brain" Heenan served as the main commentators, with special insider help on select matches from wrestling whiz Mike Tenay. Plus, "Mean" Gene Okerlund offered his traditional interviews.



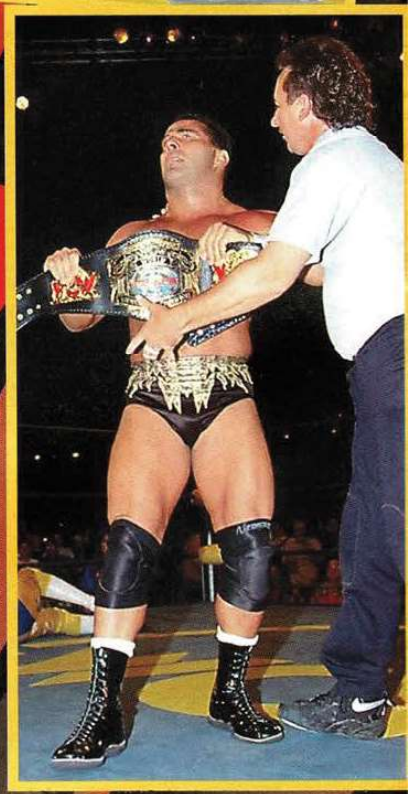


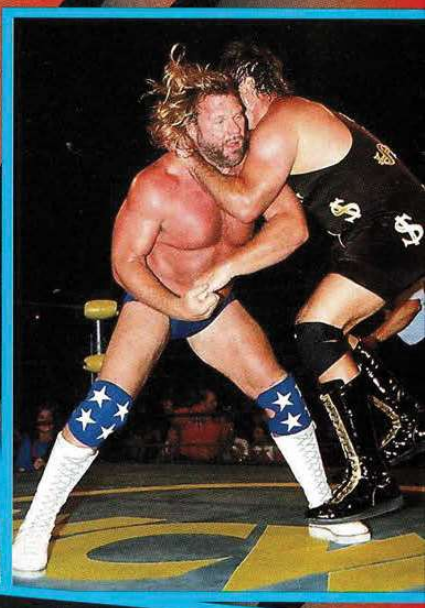
WCW WORLD CRUISERWEIGHT TITLE

CLASH of the CHAMPIONS

Dean Malenko VS Rey Mysterio Jr.

The evening opened with, perhaps, the most exciting match of the night. Certainly the most move-filled. "The Man of 1,000 Holds" Dean Malenko went head-to-head for the fourth time this summer with Rey Mysterio, Jr., for the Cruiserweight Championship, and the former titlist opened the offense early, attacking Mysterio before the bell. Mysterio rebounded and, about 90 seconds into the contest, had the first two-count of the night. Mysterio's wealth of wrestling moves overshadowed his considerable experience disadvantage. Said Schiavone, "Rey Mysterio, Jr., thinks on his feet better than any 21-year-old." Malenko's arsenal included an impressive brain buster that included that jump for added pain. Mysterio's attack included a somersault into a senton splash and a moonsault off the guard rail. "Every time Rey Mysterio, Jr., wrestles, he offers something new, something different, something revolutionary," Schiavone said. As the match progressed, Malenko was able to kick out of a frankensteiner and eventually perfected a fireman's carry off the top rope into a gutbuster over his knee. He then went for the pin, and actually got it from referee Randy Anderson — until Anderson realized he was wrong; Mysterio's left leg was on the rope. Anderson re-started the match and Mysterio prevailed with a springboard into a three-count. "What a controversial finish to this (match)," Tenay said.

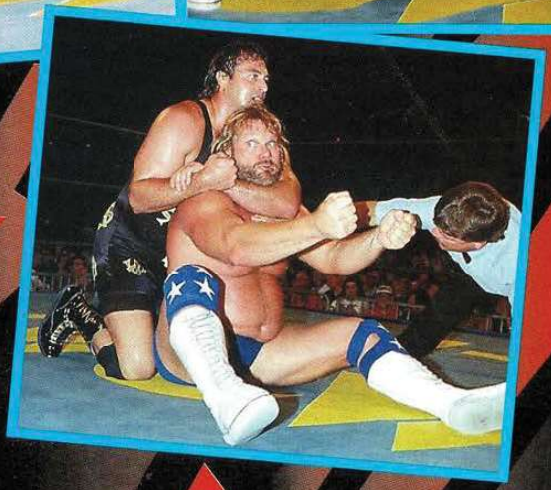




CLASH of the CHAMPIONS

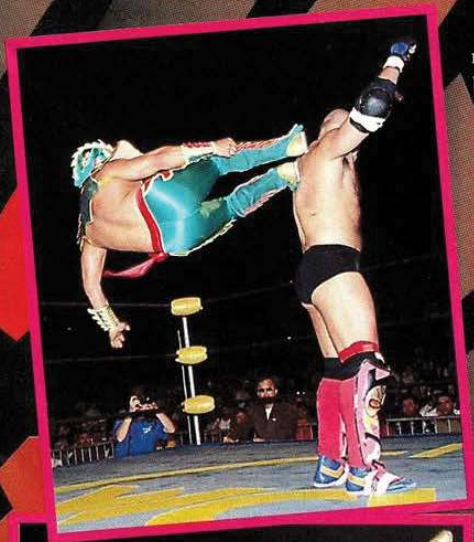
V.K. Wallstreet VS Hacksaw Jim Duggan

Veterans V.K. Wallstreet and Hacksaw Jim Duggan then did battle. Duggan opened the offense and was quickly able to ram Wallstreet's head into the turnbuckle. The count of 10 echoed throughout the building. Duggan went for his patented clothesline finisher shortly thereafter, but Wallstreet thwarted it by simply sliding out of the ring. Moments later, Duggan appears to have the match at hand, but, when he brings out some tape for his fist, he actually tapes himself to the referee, and Wallstreet is able to secure the victory.

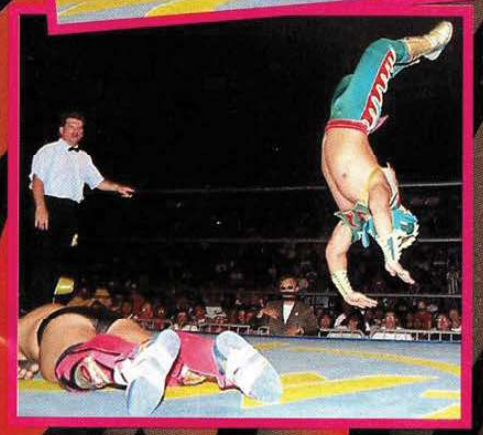


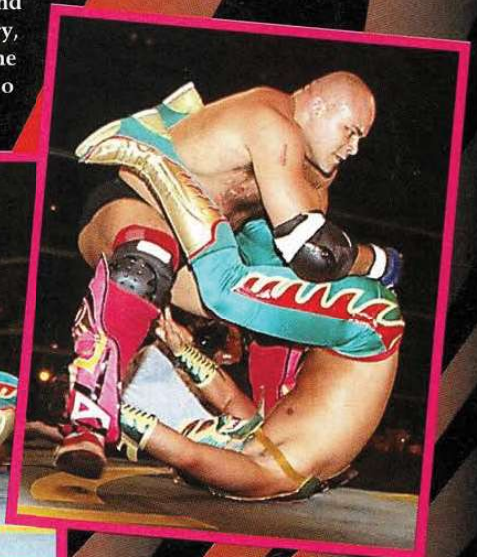
CLASH of the CHAMPIONS

Ultimo Dragon VS Konan



The Ultimo Dragon, with his evil manager Sonny Onoo lurking in the background, next stepped into the ring, to match wits with his one-time Mexican tag team partner Konan, now a much-changed man from, say, the start of the summer. The controversial Nick Patrick was the third man in the ring for this battle. Konan, the Mexican Heavyweight Champion, showed early an impressive version of the Indian Death Lock, but Ultimo Dragon was soon able to mount his own attack. With, naturally, some help from Onoo. When Konan was dumped out of the ring, Onoo delivered several vicious left-foots to the mid-section. The match featured numerous holds, such as moonsaults and German suplexes, that could have led to victory, but didn't. In the end, Konan prevailed when he scored the three-count despite holding Ultimo Dragon's tights.

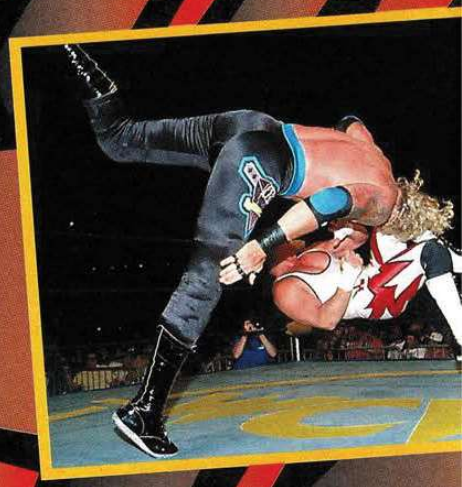


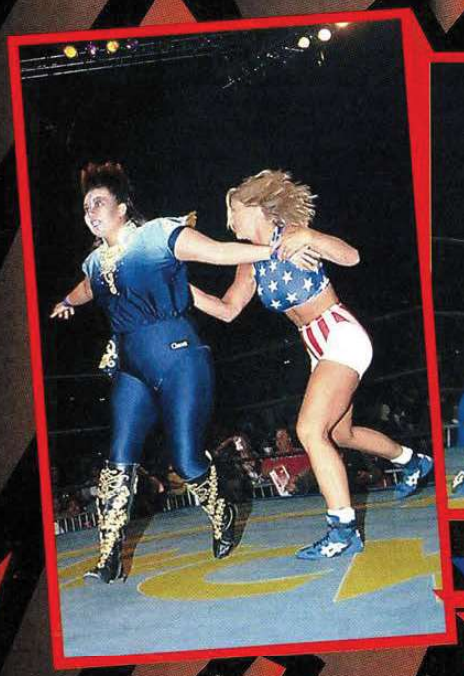


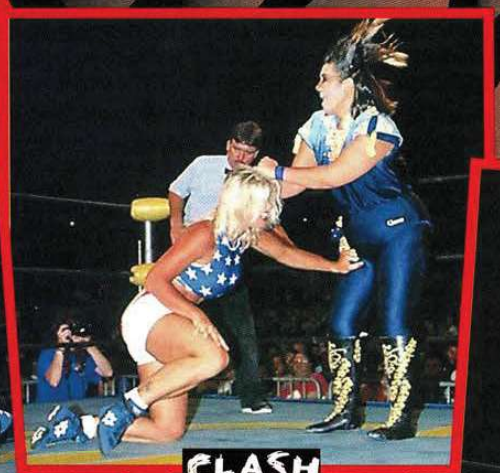
CLASH of the CHAMPIONS

Meng VS Randy Savage

Meng next captured one of the most-impressive W's of his career when he scored the win over "Macho Man" Randy Savage, and he didn't even break a sweat. Savage was unable to wrestle due to the savage chair attack he endured by "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan.

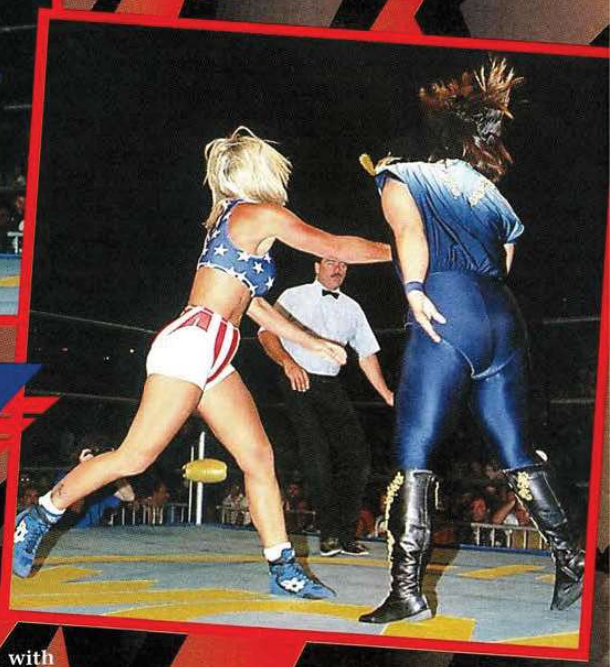




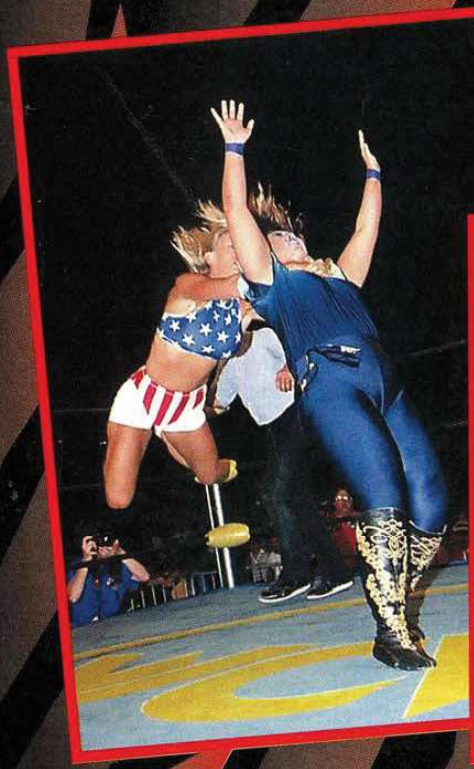


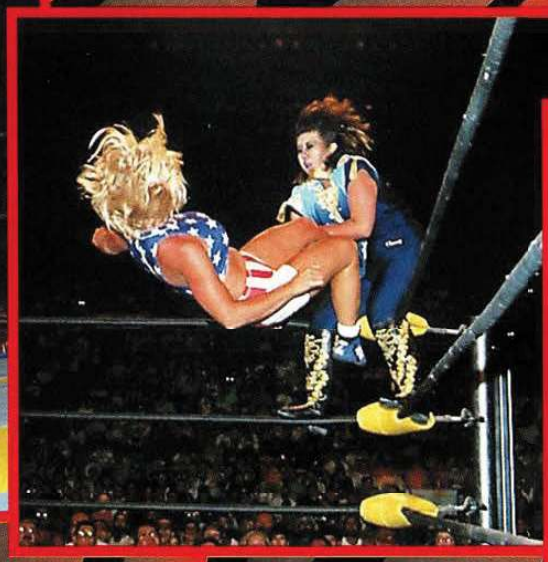
CLASH of the CHAMPIONS

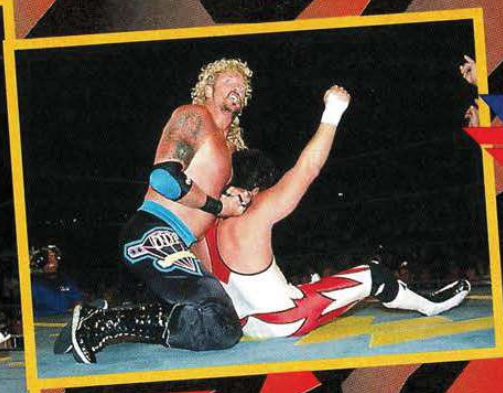
Madusa VS Bull Nakano



The Rocky Mountain festivities next turned to the females. Madusa and Bull Nakano (with Sonny Onoo in her corner) did battle in a return match from Hog Wild. Nakano came to the ring with her nunchucks and vowed revenge. "She's tougher than half the men walking this planet," Heenan said. Still, Madusa opened the bout with several early kicks and chops. Nakano then took over with several violent hair drags, the spinning moves that can make boys and girls alike scream in pain. Nakano then used the nunchucks to Madusa's mid-section as Onoo distracted the referee. Madusa, though, was able to overcome this attack, then took Nakano down with a pair of shoulder takedowns. Madusa then whips Nakano into the rope, then tries to take her over, but is thwarted when Nakano simply sits down with her famous butt-drop. Madusa kicks out of the pin-attempt and soon takes her attack out of the ring. She comes off the top rope toward Nakano, but Nakano moves out of the way and Madusa nails Onoo. Moments later, the angry Onoo jumps to the apron and is about to kick Madusa as Nakano holds her. But Madusa moves; Onoo kicks Nakano and Madusa rolls her up for the victory.







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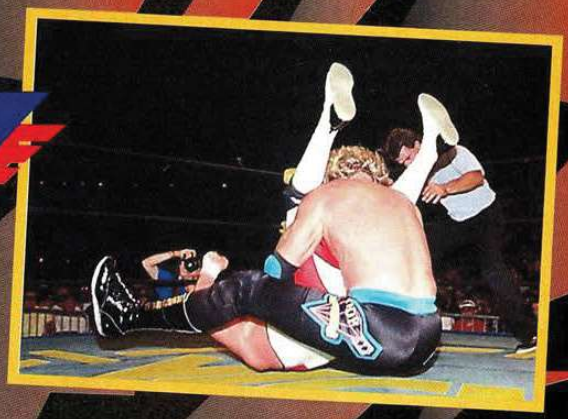
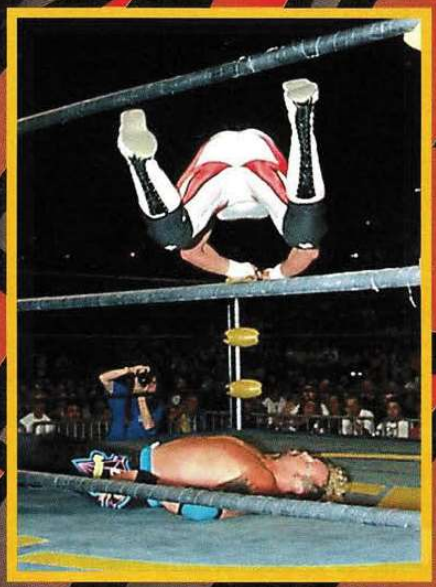
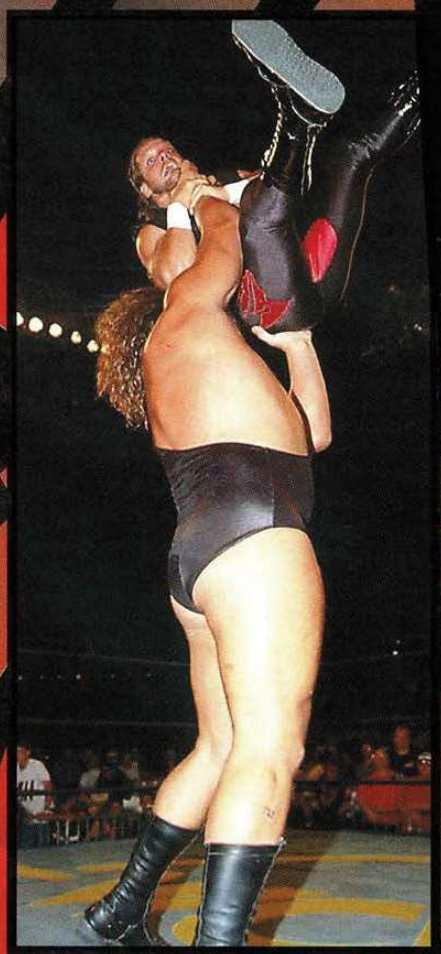
Eddie Guerrero VS DDP



Eddie Guerrero, the perfect gentleman in and out of the ring, next waged war on one of the most ruthless competitors in WCW, Diamond Dallas Page, with the Battlebowl Championship on the line. Guerrero's heart, determination and desire was put to the test from the opening bell. He started with a headscissors into a drop-kick. He then tried to ram DDP into the corner, but Page moved and Guerrero nails the post with his shoulder. DDP stomps Guerrero, then tries to choke him. DDP slowly moves into a scientific approach, with a gut-buster and side-sault, among other holds. Guerrero soon counters with some vicious elbows, a hip-toss and a leg-sweep. The match also featured a Guerrero somersault from outside in, an impressive jawbreaker counter by DDP that he turned into a powerbomb. But, in the end, DDP's antics proved futile. He carried Guerrero to the top rope. Guerrero then head-butted DDP into the middle of the ring, then connected with his patented frog-splash for the 1-2-3. After the match, DDP surprisingly stuck out his hand to congratulate Guerrero — and Guerrero took the bait. DDP grabbed his hand and used it to lead into his deadly Diamond Cutter. DDP struck again, with a second Diamond Cutter and was going for a third — off the top rope — when Chavo Guerrero came into the ring to aid Eddie. But it was too little, too late. "So much for Eddie Guerrero; he's not going any place," Heenan said.





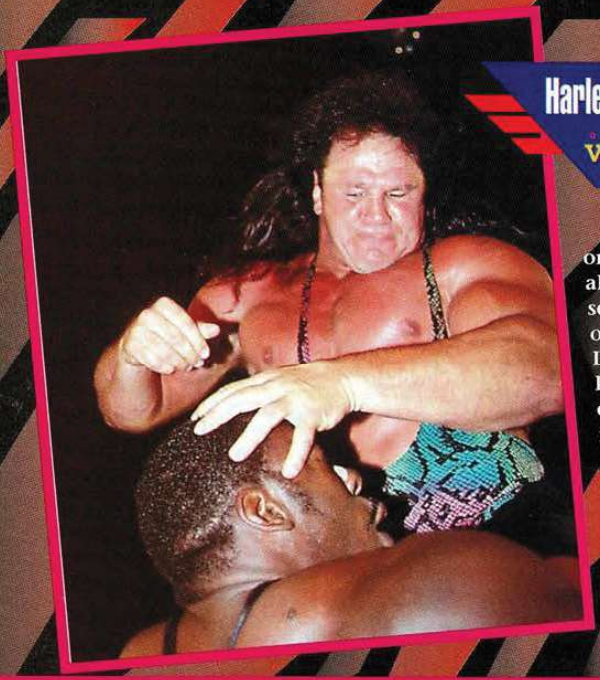
CLASH of the CHAMPIONS

The Giant VS Chris Benoit

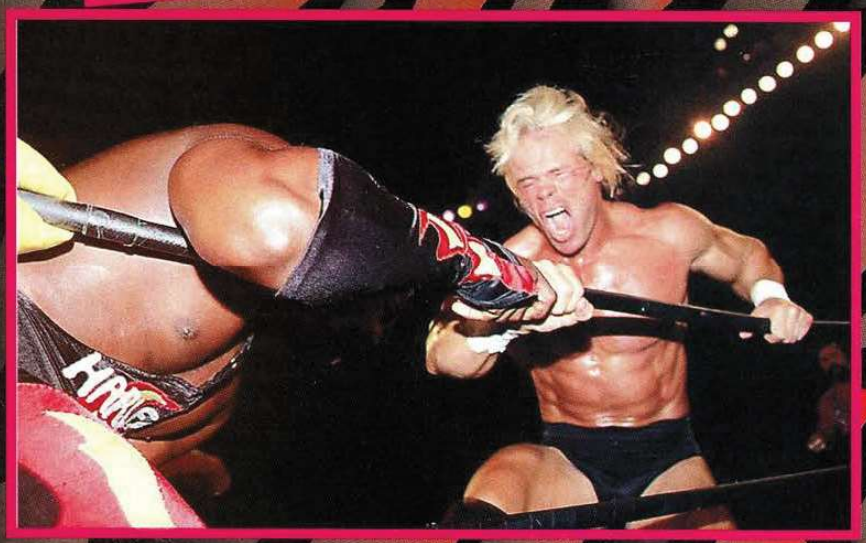
Was Woman helping her man Chris Benoit in his match against The Giant, as she claims? Or, as it appeared, aiding The Dungeon of Doom? She was "trying" to help Benoit take his vest off in the corner, or so it seems. But The Giant seized the moment to stop Benoit. He dropkicked Benoit, then chokeslammed him in epic proportions.

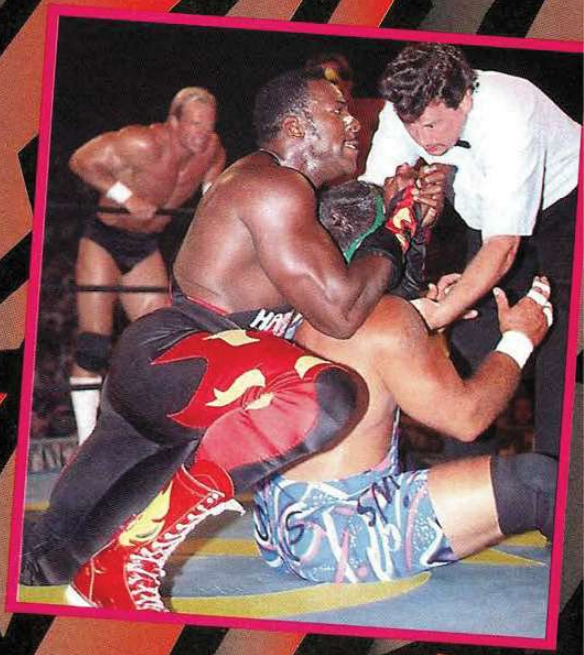
CLASH of the CHAMPIONS

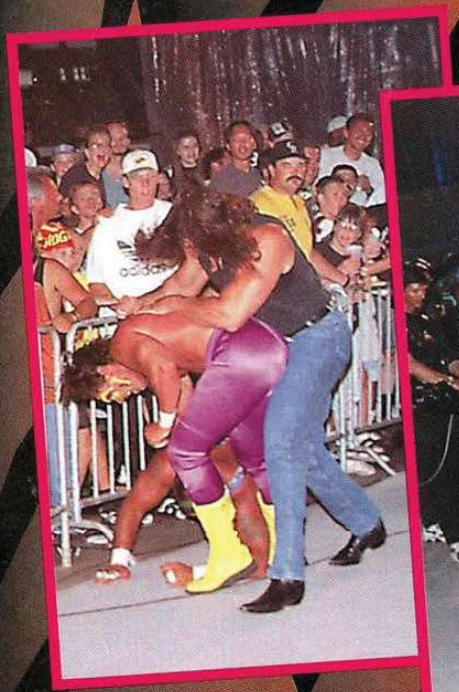
Harlem Heat vs The Steiners vs Lex Luger & Sting

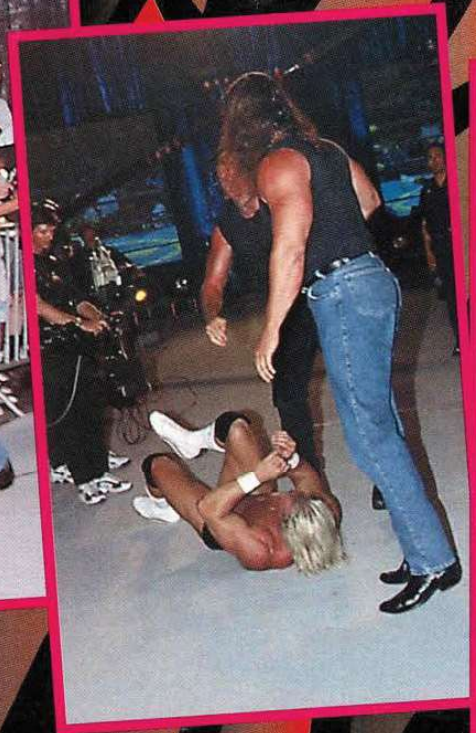


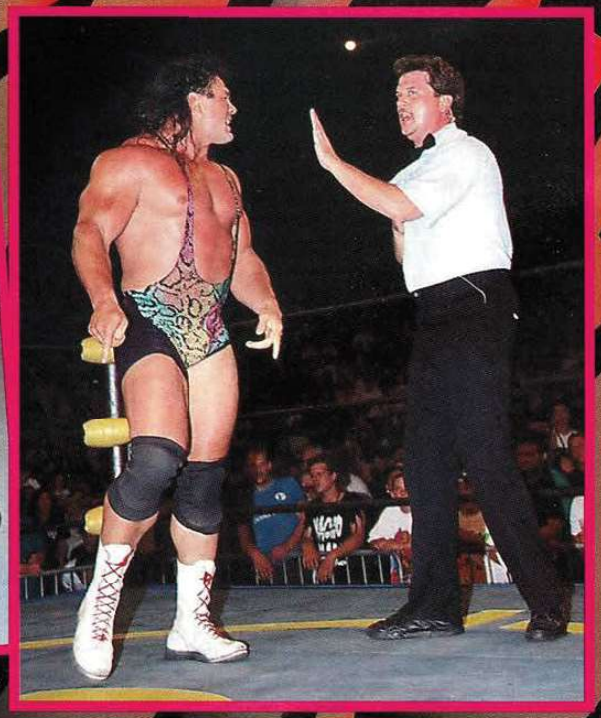
With six of the biggest men in the sport doing battle inside one ring, chaos ran wild in the prime time Triangle Match, featuring The Steiner Brothers, Sting and Lex Luger and Tag Team Champions of the World Harlem Heat. Scott Steiner and Booker T opened the match and Booker T got the early advantage. Moments later, Scott threw Booker T from the corner onto the top rope — and Luger attacked the Heat member. The frenzied action also included Rick clotheslining Stevie Ray and Luger. Harlem Heat attacked several times during the match with their famous Harlem Sidekick, including one by Stevie Ray on Rick that almost knocked off his head gear. Rick and Luger, minutes later in this classic, go at it along the ropes, and referee Nick Patrick gets caught in the middle. Meanwhile, in the middle of the ring, Scott delivers a reverse DDT to Sting. Harlem Heat was, unquestionably, the freshest team late in the match as Sting, Luger and The Steiners battled for several minutes in, if it were a traditional tag team match, would be a classic. The moves were awesome: Rick give Luger a belly to back suplex, Scott then delivers a belly to belly on Luger. As the intensity builds, all six competitors bring their venom into the ring, only to have it spill outside moments later. Rick and Booker T remain inside, and Rick hits the feared Frankensteiner. Nick Patrick starts his count, but stops at two and cancels the match because of outside interference from, who else, The Outsiders, Scott Hall and Kevin Nash. "Nick Patrick just cost The Steiners' the title," Schiavone said.

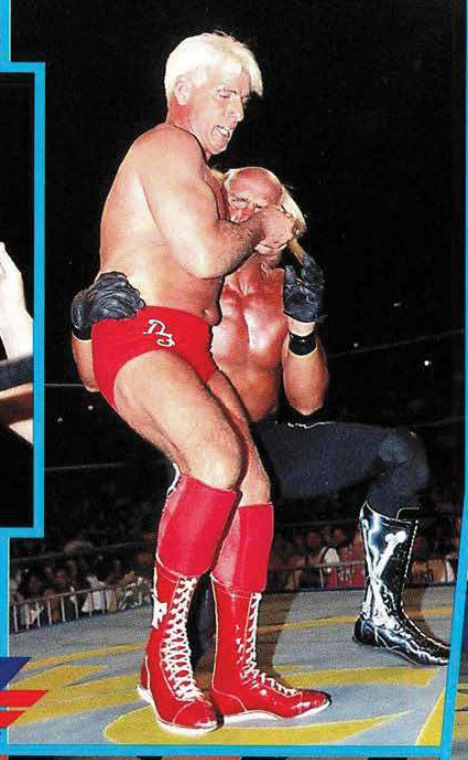


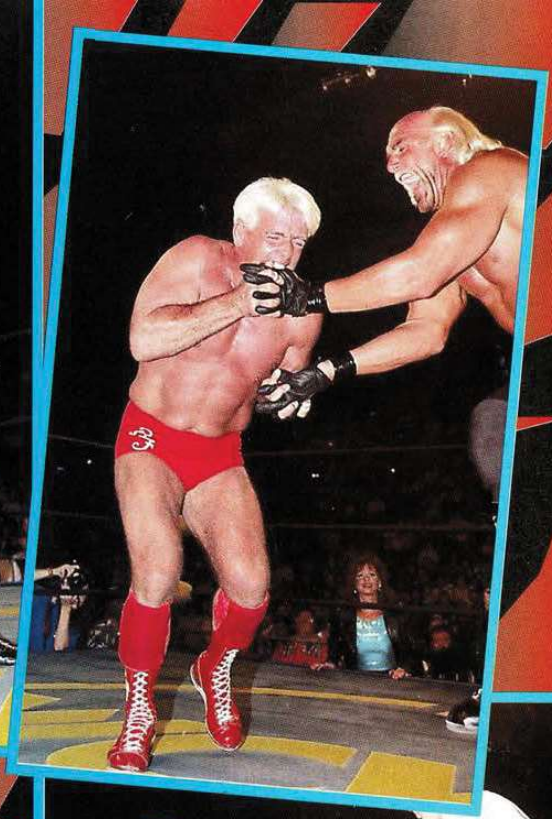








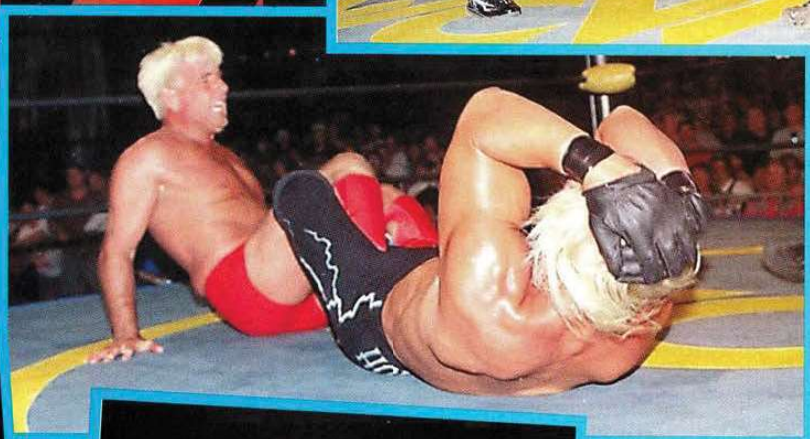


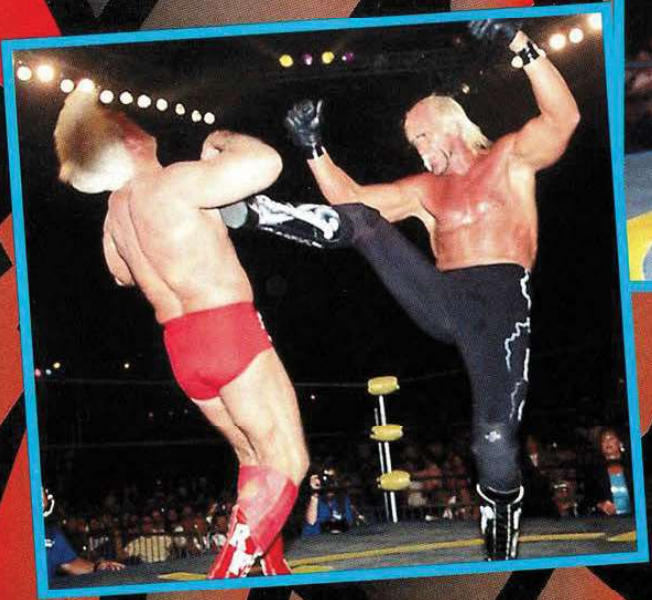


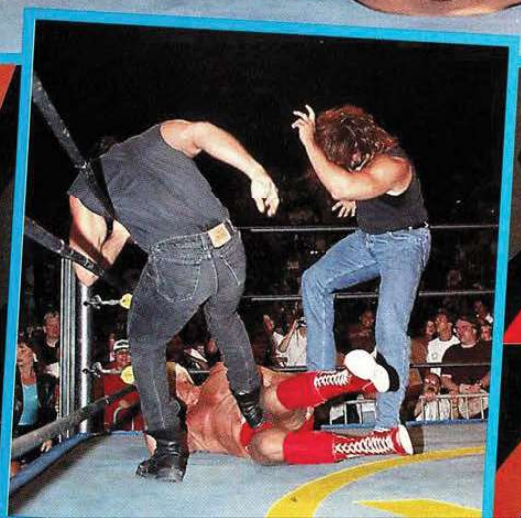
CLASH of the CHAMPIONS

Hulk Hogan VS Ric Flair

The two-hour extravaganza ended in cataclysmic proportions: with a title defense for Hulk Hogan against the self-proclaimed "Dirtiest Player in the Game," Ric Flair. This time, as opposed to any previous meeting over the past couple of years, Hogan was in black and being booed by the fans, whereas Flair was in white and receiving their adulation. "He's a lowlife, there's no doubt about it ... I've been saying that for years." Heenan said. "Hollywood Hulk Hogan ... you make me sick!" Flair opened the offense with a headlock that dazed the champ. Flair then hit him with chops and punches that staggered The Immortal One. "I never thought we'd see that scene: Hogan draw back (his fist) at a fan," Schiavone said as Hogan rolled out of the ring and threatened a ringside fan. Flair then took the fight out of the ring, but Hogan was ready for it; he rammed Flair into the steel rail. Back inside, Flair's offense includes an impressive suplex, and it looked as though the title was coming back to WCW. But then he started Hulking-up, as we've seen oh-so-many times. He attempted a leg drop, but Flair moved out of the way — and countered with his Figure Four Leglock. "Keep a lookout," Heenan warned. And, sure enough, after Hogan pulled referee Randy Anderson, knocking him out, The Outsiders attacked!! Luckily, Flair's Horsemen pals Arn Anderson, Chris Benoit and Steve McMichael came to the rescue, along with — amazingly — Sting and Luger.



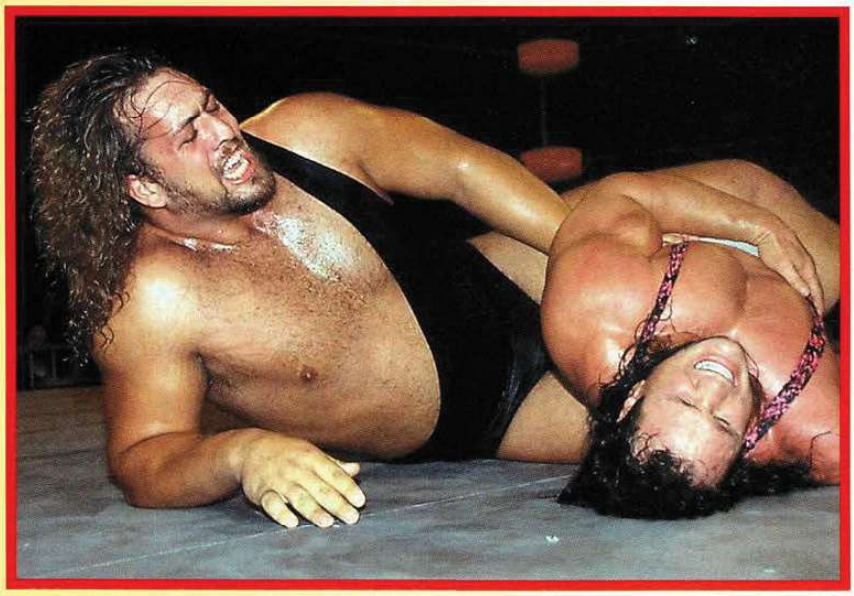




Traitor?

No one was more surprised by The Giant's stunning move into the camp of The New World Order than WCW Magazine. Particularly Executive Editor Ross Forman, who met with The Giant for an exclusive interview during the evening of Sept. 1st — less than 24 hours before his shocking betrayal of WCW. The Giant was his gracious self to WCW Magazine, and offered no hints of his "plans" to side with The NWO. In fact, he was as anti-NWO as anyone. So why did he jump ship? Was it really for the money? And, if so, how much was it, because he no doubt already earned a pretty penny? Or, could it just be a ploy by "Taskmaster" Kevin Sullivan and The Dungeon of Doom to infiltrate The NWO? WCW Magazine is without answers. As we went to press in mid-September, Sullivan was simply saying, "I'm in a state of shock." And The Giant, well, he wasn't talking. He didn't return phone calls to his home.

The staff of WCW Magazine, in a last-minute "executive decision," opted to print this story, with The Giant's thoughts before he joined The NWO, in the hopes that (and boy is this scary to say), The Giant will return to The Dungeon of Doom. More than that, that he will return to World Championship Wrestling!!!



The Chicago Bulls finished the 1995-96 season with a 72-10 regular-season record en route to NBA Championship glory. It was an amazing feat by an incredible team, led by the game's greatest player ever: Michael Jordan.

But what about those 10 losses?

Losing is a part of athletics. Always has been. Always will be. It just has to be. And losing is a major part. Some say losing is as important — to the good teams — as winning. Losing builds character, re-focuses a team. Sure, at times losing is embarrassing, but it is an integral part of championships. It is so rare that a team goes through a season without a setback. Think about it, Alex Wright wasn't even born and The Giant was in diapers when the 1972 Miami Dolphins ran amuck through the NFL, culminating with a Super Bowl-winning season. That was the last undefeated team.

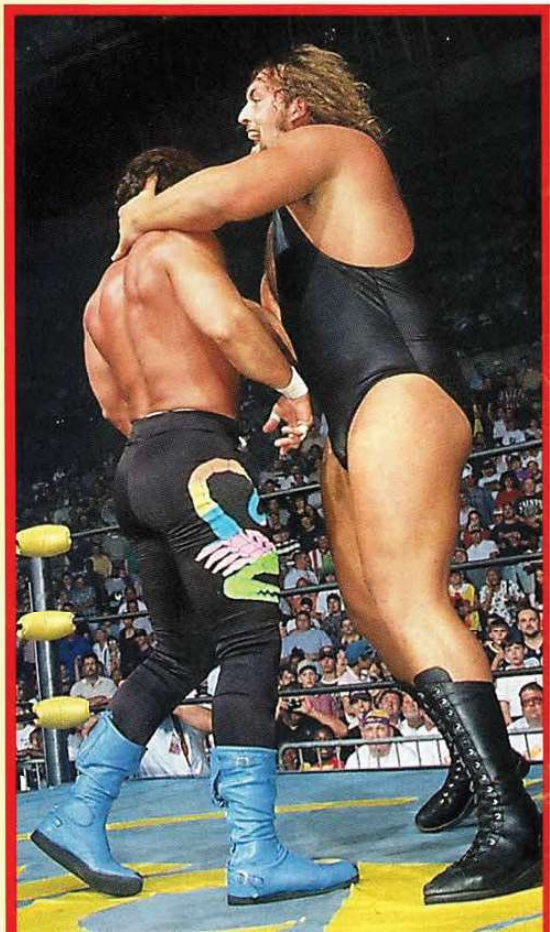
So can The Giant rebound from his Hog Wild loss — of the WCW World Heavyweight Championship — to Hulk Hogan?

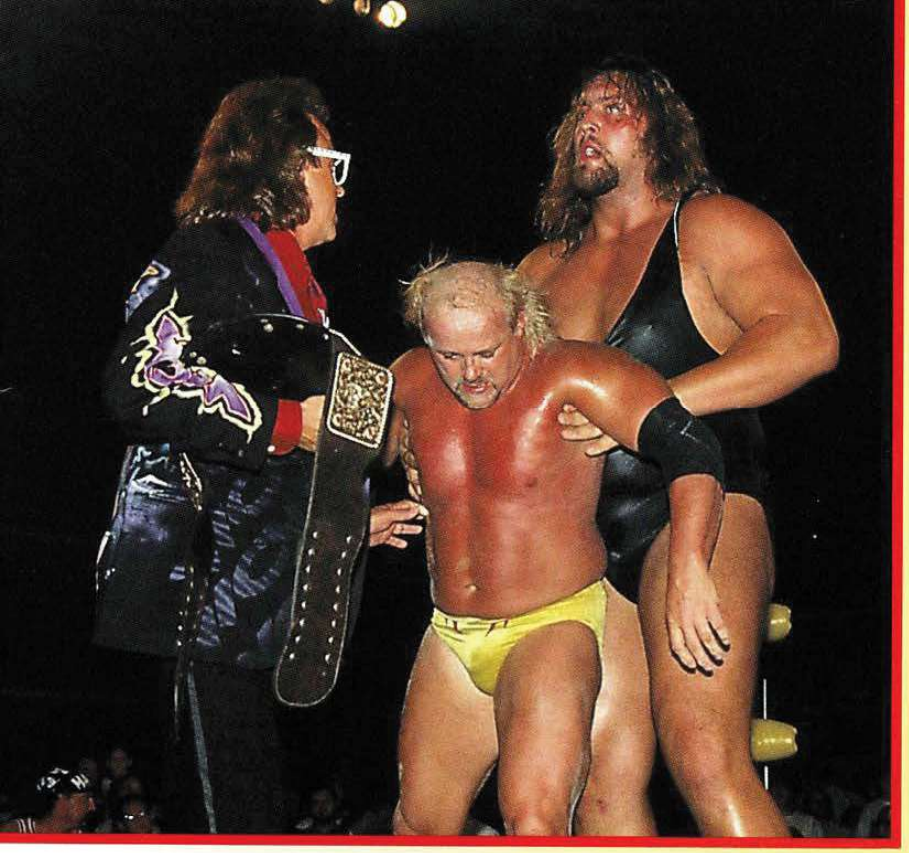
"Absolutely. Absolutely. The only person who can stop The Giant is, The Giant," said former wrestler Terry Taylor. "At 24, with less than one year in the business, this was a great learning lesson for him. Think about it, if you are the best in the business and get beat by Hulk Hogan, what shame is there in that?"

Maybe just a bruised ego.

"I think that loss was a wake-up call. It was something I needed in my career, especially this early," The Giant said. "It's not a case where I won't ever be champion again, because I know I will. It's just a matter of being more careful about my opponents, watching my back at all times because even at Hog Wild in Sturgis (S.D.), there was no one there in my corner watching my back."

"Hogan is going to run and hide, but eventually he is going to have to face me again. As I look back on the match in Sturgis, I think it was a





different kind of match. We finally got to see the coward that Hulk Hogan really is. From my standpoint, he certainly was one of the strongest competitors I have ever faced, but, at the same time, he doesn't have anything else up his bag of tricks ... I've seen everything he has. Next time I'll get the win. Rather quickly. And then I'll be back on top, where I belong."

The Giant told WCW Magazine that he won't "toy" with Hogan should they meet again. The Giant added that he will go for the instant "kill." The Giant even went so far as to say that, the next match won't last as long as his ring-entrance. And that's about 90 seconds.

"I think Hogan finally realizes that no one supports him anymore and with no one supporting you, it makes things a lot harder," The Giant said. "For a man like Hulk Hogan who has built his whole career on fan support, it's bound to effect him. Personally, I have never needed fan support; I never cared about it. That means it doesn't effect my game-plan."

The Giant captured the title earlier this year from Ric Flair, then defended the strap from every force. From The Four Horsemen to fan favorite after fan favorite.

"My first (title) reign was uncompromised," he said. "I had title defenses against some of the best athletes in the world. I don't think there's anyone in the world who can beat me one-on-one, and Sturgis certainly wasn't a one-on-one encounter. Heck, how many other wrestlers have had to bring weapons, such as chairs and two-by-fours, to the ring just to try to stop me?"

We asked The Giant about Randy Savage's claim that he "let down WCW" by not defeating Hulk Hogan?

"I think Randy is nothing more than a dog who is chasing his own tail. It's that simple," The Giant snapped, his eyes bulging with anger. "Randy Savage has got his fingers in everything. He's got problems with The Four Horsemen, with Hulk Hogan, with me. If you look at things, Randy Savage is the problem. Period. I don't worry about him too much. I think he's nothing more than a big dog with a loud bark. I'm not worried about his bite."

The Giant added: "I hear people say that I've already reached my peak in this sport. My answer to that: No way ... that's impossible. How can you reach your peak after only eight months? I've gone farther — and faster — than any rookie in this business. I guarantee that, in 20 years, you'll be saying 'Hulk Who? The Giant was the greatest of all time!'"

That statement, upon reviewing the transcript of the tape from our talk with The Giant was ... well, let's just say it left some doubt in our minds as to whether or not The Giant was an NWO-backer 100-percent, or maybe spear-heading a plot to destroy The NWO.

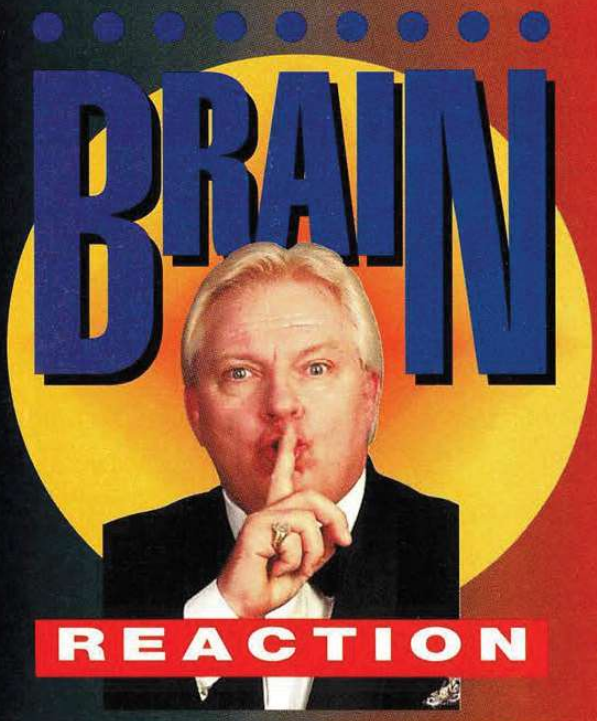
"Most people think I am slow and clumsy. Well, I'm not clumsy and I'm slow only because I can be! If I need to turn up the speed, I will," he said.

Now The Giant's comments get real interesting ...

"I'm on a systematic pattern, out to destroy everyone who is close to Hulk Hogan, then, finally, The Man," he said. "The NWO is nothing more than a band of thugs. It's real easy to sneak up on people and attack them from behind. But, if they played a fair hand and faced some of WCW's best straight-on, they wouldn't stand a chance. I look at Kevin Nash and see a devious, nasty person ... and I respect him for that. But, at the same time, I think he's a coward. I'm not worried about him, especially if he's by himself. Scott Hall, he's a total coward. He talks big, and that's it! He's the school kid who pays someone to protect him. By himself, Scott Hall is weak. Very weak."

Now do you see why we question The Giant's true loyalty?

"Taskmaster" Kevin Sullivan has brewed up some crazy concoctions in the past, but, if it's his plan to infiltrate The NWO with The Giant, Sullivan truly would be one of the smartest minds in this sport. Only time will tell.



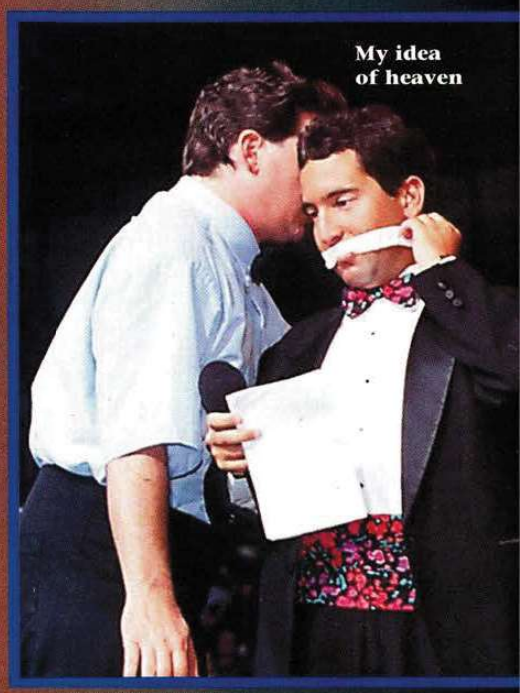
Bobby "The Brain" Heenan is the co-host of WCW Monday Nitro Live on TNT. He also serves as color commentator on WCW Clash and PPV broadcasts.
All the views expressed are his and his alone!

Who in the world does Mike Tenay think he is? That pip-squeak announcer who has a counter for everything I say just pranced into Monday Nitro, the show I built, and settled into the the broadcast booth next to Eric Bischoff on Sept. 2. No way. That's not gonna last. I spent one year building Nitro into the most-watched wrestling show on television, blowing past the USA Network along the way. And this Las Vegas loser thinks he's gonna steal my thunder thanks to his knowledge of wrestling holds, well, he's got another thing coming. The only chair Tenay is going to be sitting in when I get through with him is the electric chair. Tenay is just bad for WCW. Heck, we don't even know for sure if he works for WCW. Maybe he works for The New World Order. Oh gosh, I don't even want to think about that. Being in the broadcast booth with Eric Bischoff is bad enough ... now I've got another moron to try and educate. Why isn't it just me and Larry Zbyszko for two hours? That's what the fans really want. Tenay, you're a busy-body with no business in MY broadcast booth ... stay out of my way, stay off the air and we'll get along just fine.

The NWO ... where do I start with this gang of thugs? I don't like them and never will like them, but have learned a lot about them with the addition of Ted DiBiase joining the fray. Ted and I go back a long way. A very long way. He has helped me with financial advice for years and I have a lot of respect for him — and have gotten a lot of extra money thanks to him. So why is he siding with The New World Order. Business. That's it, plain and simple. My guess is, Ted Turner offered him, oh, $5 million per year to join WCW — and Ted was insulted; he can make that in a month. I don't know what DiBiase's exact plans are, nor do I know what The NWO has in store, but I do know — with Mr. DiBiase serving as the CEO — it will be a Fortune 500 company by year's end. And that scares me to no end!!

For here on out, I will refer to the Renegade as Sam. Why, you ask? In tribute to the California-based company Sports Accessories and Memorabilia, makers of bobbing head dolls. Think about it, humanoids.

Dave Penzer, the most useless employee in WCW history, has the simple task of introducing wrestlers before their matches. Penzer says the wrestlers' name, weight and hometown — and yet still has to read off note-cards. Gee, any moron, you'd think, would be able to remember those simple things — but not Penzer. Penzer's ignorance shined as bright as the Florida sun on Aug. 26, when Monday Nitro originated from Palmetto, just south of Tampa. That dimwit forgot his pants. Honest to goodness, he forgot his pants. He scurried around the backstage area looking for a pair of black dress pants with a 29-inch waist ... like that's an easy thing to find among a bunch of wrestlers. Penzer, luckily for him, found a perfect gentleman in Squire David Taylor who rented him a pair of his pants. Personally, I wish Taylor wasn't so nice.


My idea of heaven

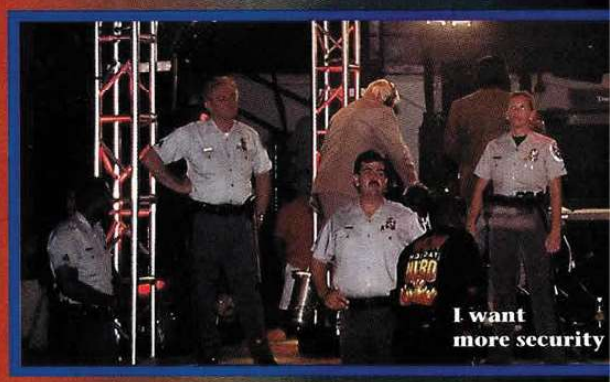
With Halloween Havoc right around the corner in Las Vegas, maybe WCW needs to recruit The Gambler. Just a thought.

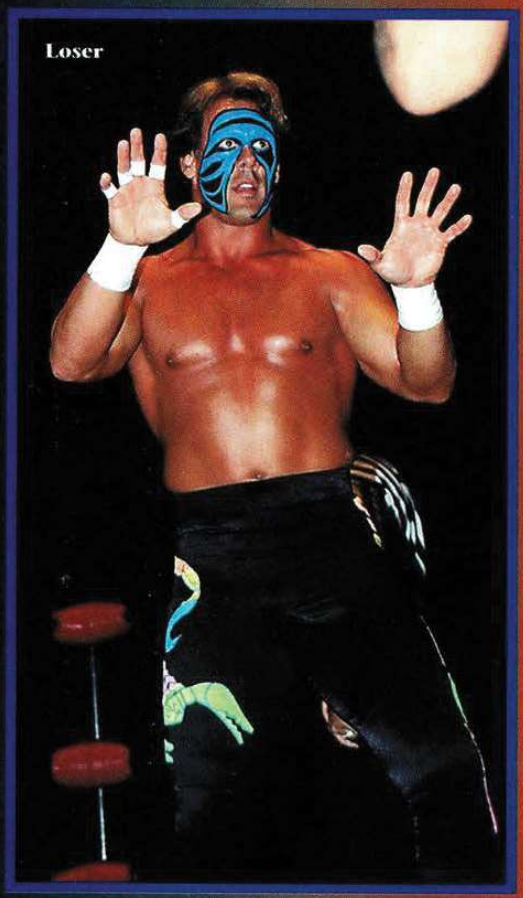
Disco and his manager Big Sexy are the talk of the town in Nashville AND Memphis. I'm not sure that's good considering the cities, but that's a fact.

With blonde hair, Sting is a loser. With brown hair, Sting is a loser. Maybe he should go Okerlund.

Can anyone tell me why the fans show such affection for Public Enemy? Here are two guys, "Flyboy" Rocco Rock and Johnny Grunge, who, combined, have fewer brain cells than "Macho Man" Randy Savage. Rocco Rock is living a lifelong 'Bad Hair Day,' and Grunge has never met a toothbrush he liked.

Can anyone tell me where Commissioner Nick Bockwinkel is at these days? WCW is in disarray and he's no where to be found. Baseball is without a commissioner and Albert Belle is running amuck. But,


I want more security


Loser

that sounds all-too-familiar to the scene in WCW. That's why WCW NEEDS A COMMISSIONER! So who could it be? Randy Savage? No way, he's psychologically disturbed. Gene Okerlund? No, you need a brain in your head for this job, or at least hair on top. Madusa? Nope, she's a woman. Woman? Unfortunately too busy with her managerial chores. So who's left? Yours truly, Bobby "The Brain" Heenan? Sure, I'll accept the job ... and the seven-digit salary that goes with it. My first order of business will be to hire some policemen. Lots of policemen. And real policemen, not the donut-eaters or meter-maids. I want the gun-toting, baton-swinging cops. I guess I better look to Los Angeles for a few if that's the case.

Did you notice on the WCW Worldwide telecasts that Tony Schiavone holds the microphone for me. Well, he also shines my shoes and serves as a pretty good chauffeur. Trust me, it's true!

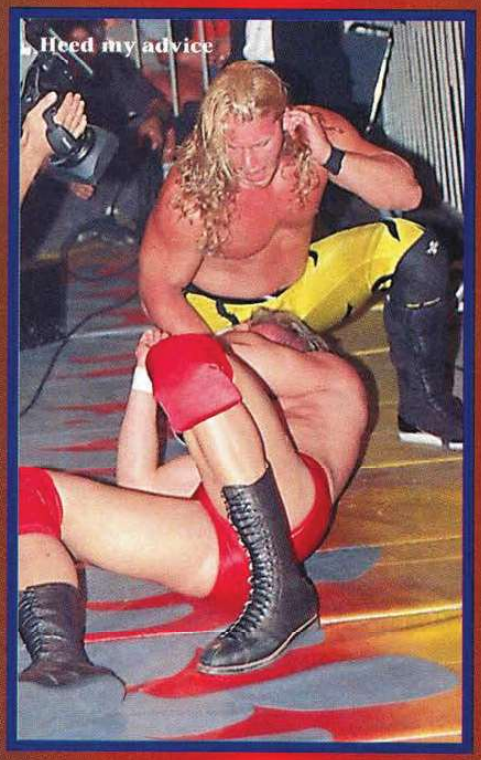
Finally, a TV Champion with class and dignity: Lord Steven Regal. And anyone who says he only won the match over Lex Luger thanks to Outside(r) interference needs to get their eyes checked. His Lordship told me that he would not accept such a victory if that was the case, and I believe him.

That leads me to "Lion's Breath" Chris Jericho who not only is young, but also very stupid. Someone needs to tell "Lion's Breath" that, in the world of professional wrestling, it doesn't pay to be a nice guy. If Alex Wright is out and you have the opportunity to win a match — and get the extra loot that comes with the victory — take it. Then go pound the Sauerkraut Kid a little more just for good measure.

V.K. Wallstreet offers some of the best tips for the rapidly-approaching holiday season. And, no, they do not include shopping at Wal-Mart. Mr. Wallstreet is a financial whiz, a true genius with the all-mighty dollar, a student of the stock market. Mr. Wallstreet is such a smart businessman he could earn millions of tacos for Eddie Guerrero ... for only a billion dollar investment.

What's with this guy Glacier? Doesn't he know Halloween is only one day a year?

Tony Schiavone claims 'Hacksaw' Jim Duggan, who graduated from Southern Methodist University in Texas, is "very intelligent" and at first I didn't believe him. Duggan ... Texas ... smart? Nah, couldn't be. But, if you think about it, Duggan might be the brightest SMU graduate in the world. He can say Hooooo! in five different languages, granted none of them are English. Dusty Rhodes, on the other hand, is the reigning Texas Brain Surgeon, and can only speak only language: Hick. So, congratulations Duggan, you big dummy!


Heed my advice

Does anyone know who is Diamond Dallas Page's Benefactor? I do.

When the U.S. signed that NAFTA agreement a couple of years back, did the fine-print say anything about small, strange creatures being allowed into this great country? I was just curious how Rey Mysterio, Jr., Super Calo and Juventud Guerrera crossed the border?

Haven't we reached our quota of Guerreros yet? There's Eddie and Chavo Jr., and now their younger sister Juventud.

Am I the only one who thinks WCW needs a Cruiserweight Tag Team tournament? Let's see, there's Dean Malenko, Brad Armstrong, J.L., Alex Wright, Chris Benoit and 101 jumping beans from south of the border? While we're on the subject, I must inform you humanoids that Rey Mysterio, Jr., captures this month's "Duh Award." WCW's reigning Cruiserweight champion went to get his ear pierced one day in Orlando, but came back with a belly-button ring. It seems Rey thought the ring would be digested into his stomach, travel through his intestines, into his cranium, then pop out on his ear. At least that's the way they think in Juarez.

One more thing about Mr. Mysterio. He's so proud of all of his acrobatic moves, especially the tope. Well, I think he should just use it on his head. Or at least give it to Okerlund.

Bobby Eaton has made the biggest mistake of his life. Instead of walking with kings and queens, and being catered to hand-over-foot as a member of The Blue Bloods, he's decided to settle for rednecks and grits at Waffle House. To each his own.

Humanoids, that's it for another month, thank goodness!

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new world Order

A paid advertisement on behalf of the NWO

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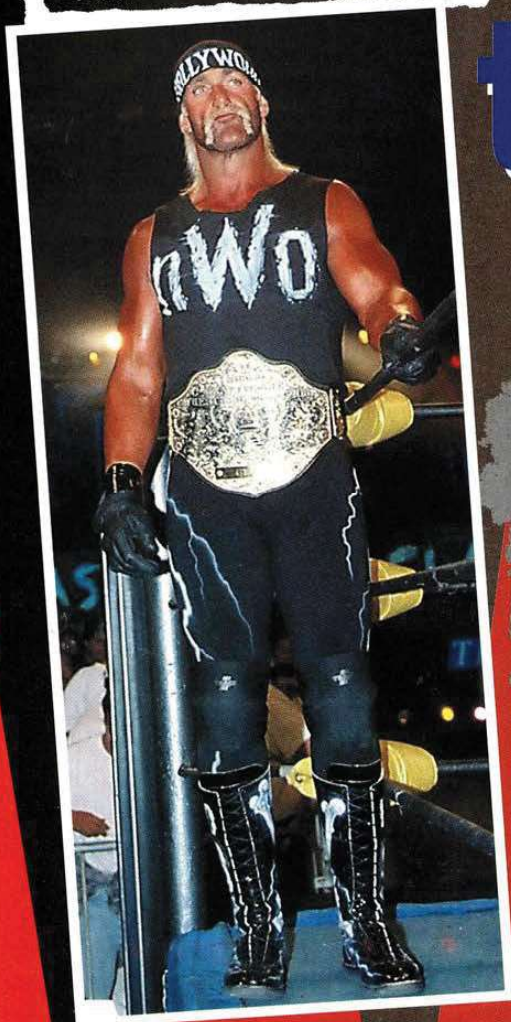


Anyone at WCW ready yet to wave the white flag?

The New World Order and yours truly are watching.

That great wrestling promotion, that megalopolis of Ted Turner, well, it ain't that great. The NWO has, on repeated occasions, proved its superiority, right? The NWO said it was going to deliver, and who can deny it has delivered? If The NWO isn't the world's most powerful force around, what is? The U.S. Army? The Central Red Army? Hardly. You can't put five military guys together who see eye-to-eye. In The NWO, on the other hand, you've got Scott Hall, Kevin Nash, Hulk Hogan, Ted DiBiase and The Giant ... and not an argument anywhere. And by the time you read this, there will be ... well, let's just say the NWO is expanding. Names? No way. Ya gotta wait, just like the rest of the petrified WCW.

As I write this month's NWO column, I must tell you one thing up-front, we aren't too fond of the deadlines set forth by WCW Magazine. The NWO is never — and I repeat, NEVER — told when it must do something. And I personally don't appreciate having to submit a column which, in reality, is not a column — just an advertisement — so far in advance. If The NWO has things to say, and if you've seen Monday Nitro for even a split-second since late-May you'll know that it does, we won't be told when to do something. Hopefully Editor/Publication Director Colin Bowman and Executive Editor Ross Forman will heed the advice of "The Nomad." The NWO isn't playing games; this is business to them. Strictly business. So, Mr. Bowman and Mr. Forman, how are you going to do your business with broken fingers? Kinda hard to type, wouldn't you say?

"When The NWO has a statement to make, it does so loud-and-clear. Sure, we might be a bit primitive in some of our ways, but we're pretty clear about it, aren't we? Actions speak louder than words we've always said," Hall said. "We appreciate the fact that America is the land of the free and home of the brave, and that not everyone speaks English. Therefore, we use the international language: violence."

Added Nash, "Yeah, some of our ways might be dated, but don't think for a moment that we aren't for real. Just ask The Booty Man who goes back with The Hulkster a long way. The Hulkster captures the belt at Hog Wild and The Booty Man comes prancing out with a cake, decked out in NWO attire. Nice gesture, but ya should have asked us first. The Booty Man ain't even close to NWO material; he'll crack in a heartbeat."

The Giant, on the other hand, well, he certainly is a welcome addition to The NWO. Here's a young stallion with the heart of a lion, the bite of a pitbull and the power of the rhino. Kevin Sullivan who, when standing on his tippee-toes, can look Nash eye-to-belly

by "THE NOMAD"

WORLD ORDER
ings really are

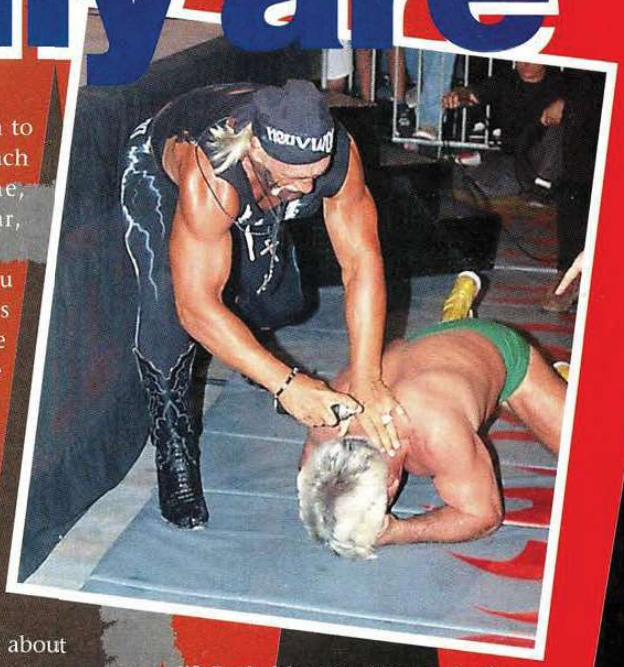
button, thought The Giant was the center-piece of the feared Dungeon of Doom ... no way! The Giant realized that The Dungeon of Doom is nothing but a bunch of washed-up barbells with big mouths. While we're on the subject of the Dungeon, here are a few questions to ponder: Has Big Bubba ever held championship gold? Can Meng and The Barbarian, the so-called Faces of Fear, even say 'champion?' When's the last time — or the first time, which would be the same — Maxx won a match? As far as The NWO is concerned, The Dungeon of Doom is nothing more than the Dungeon of Deadbeats."

"In the business of professional wrestling and, yes, it definitely is a business, there have only been a few guys who have really made an impact. Most notably, 'Hollywood' Hulk Hogan, and no one can dispute that." Nash said.

"Ric Flair also falls in the category of Impact Players, but his day has come-and-gone. Ric, we've got one word for you: retirement."

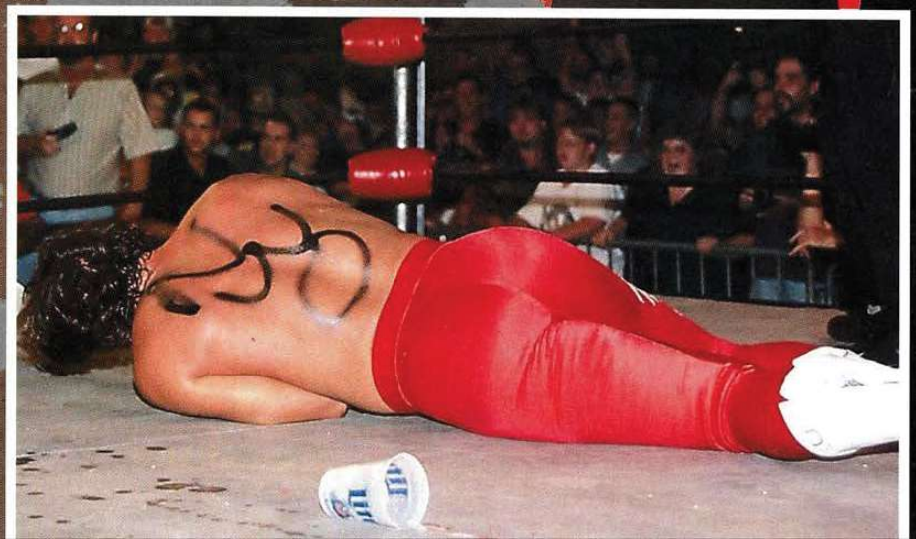
Added Hall, "Another Impact Player most assuredly is Ted DiBiase, a man who says he's going to do something, then does it. He's our kinda guy, a welcome addition to The NWO. Yeah, we know each other from another time, another place in a galaxy far, far away."

DiBiase, for those of you scoring at home, will serve as the CEO of The NWO. He's the one orchestrating the strategy, mainly because he's a couple of years removed from active wrestling which gives him the best overview. Plus, DiBiase is now a pure business man — and money is the main drive of The NWO!"



"Arn Anderson keeps talking about the fact that we just pick our spots. Exactly. Are you jealous? We're smart. We hit and we split. That's what makes it so much fun ... no one ever gets to us," Nash said, smiling. "How many times as a kid did you pound on the neighbor's door, then take off running because you knew the old people in the house weren't going to catch you? That's kind of like what we're doing."

"Right now, we're having fun. A lot of fun. We've always got big smiles on our faces. Do you think Steve 'Mongo' McMichael is smiling as well? Probably not. Oh, yeah, for only three or four matches as a pro wrestler, he's doing great. But that doesn't mean he can try to mess with our boy 'Hollywood' as he did about a month ago on Nitro? That was pretty stupid on his part, especially for one of the best players in NFL history. Yeah, it's true, you can't succeed in the NFL without incredible athletic ability, balance, timing, speed and agility ... but that doesn't mean you can try to punk 'Hollywood.' The Hulkster has



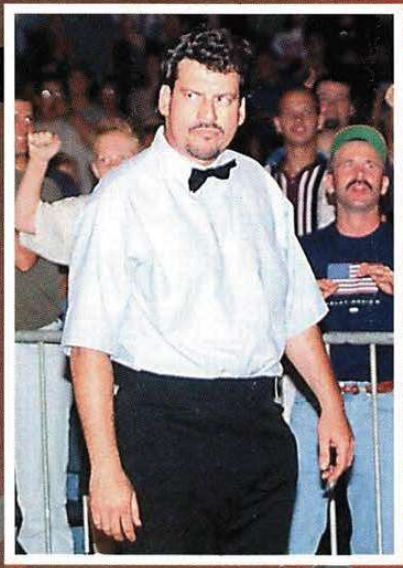
done everything there is to do in this sport. He is pro wrestling. He's like Mick Jagger, a true legend. No one ever gets tired of The Rolling Stones."

There is one person who The NWO is getting quite tired of: "Loud-mouth" Larry. Zbyszko, that is. He's a punk well-past his prime who keeps dogging The NWO.

"Larry Zbyszko, that punk, is going to have to come out of retirement because I want a piece of him," Hall said. (And, remember, what The NWO wants, it gets.) "If Zbyszko thinks we're such cowards, fine. We'll be straight-forward with him: step into the ring with one of us, any of us. And we'll smack you silly."

"He sits out there every week on Nitro promoting himself ... it's making me sick!"

Added Nash, "The only time and place we can make a statement to WCW is at a Monday Nitro (telecast), because it's live. And then we've got control. But the commentary is so bad, so biased. I think Eric Bischoff's main objective in life is to get an underwear ad. Bischoff has, for the most part, been calling it pretty straight, but probably just because he has already



felt the wrath of The NWO. Who's this new guy on Nitro, Mike Tenay? Gee, it must be great to know 1,000 holds, how to pronounce them, yet weigh only 127 pounds soaking wet. Tough luck, Tenay, you won't need any of that knowledge for The NWO. We just pound people."

As one of WCW's best broadcasters, Dusty Rhodes, would say, 'There's a new bull in the woods, a pack of bulls, if you will.' And it's The NWO."

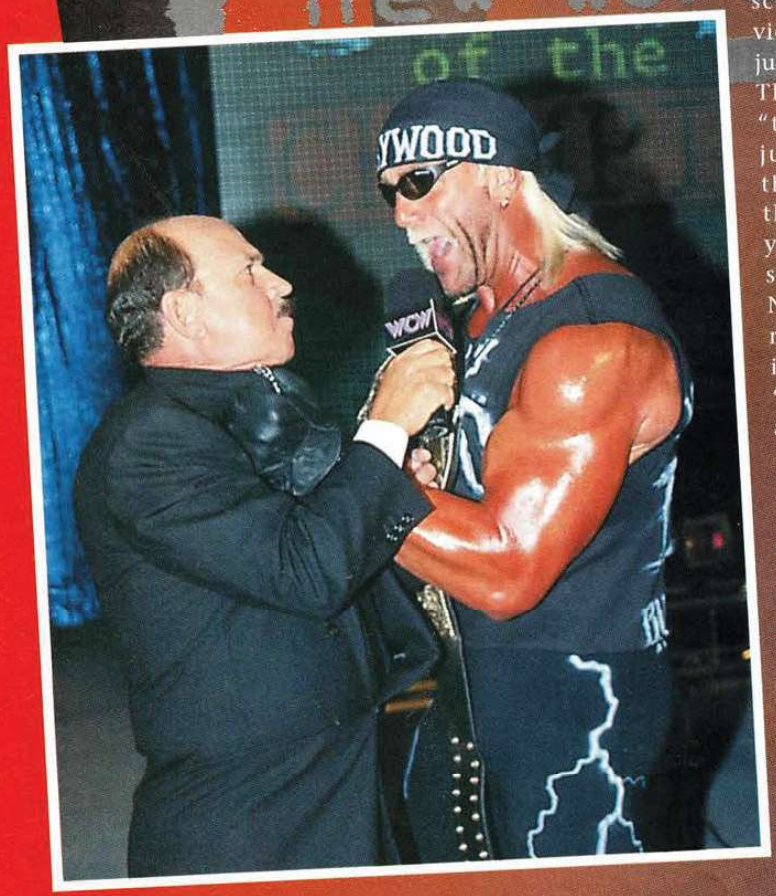
The NWO has established itself as the friendliest force in wrestling. What, you don't think we're friendly? Think about it this way: years back, when the Native Americans were victorious, they scalped their victims. The NWO just spray-paints its. That's The NWO "tag," Hall said, just like street thugs do around the world. If you see something spray painted NWO, you can rest assured that it is NWO "property," he added.

The NWO also is a cordial crew. Consider these comments from Nash: "Nick Patrick is a fine young official, a senior official for WCW. He is a fine young man who is a family man and well-respected within the community. He's an outstanding official, a talented musician and the attacks on him, by the likes of Gene Okerlund and others, are completely uncalled for. That's why, on behalf of The New World Order, I personally would like to apologize to Nick and his family for any hard times this may cause him, and we wish him nothing but the best. Nick Patrick, who is a contracted WCW official, has had to endure heartache after heartache and has had his good name slandered week after week. By who? By The NWO? No, because we know that he's not for sale, that no official can be bought. Rather, he's being attacked verbally by his own company! Again, Nick Patrick is a man of integrity and honor, a second-generation family member in this sport. His dad, "The Assassin" was actually my mentor when I broke into this business. And still is. That's why I personally am very upset by the credibility attacks Nick has had to endure. By no means is he doing anything to help The NWO. Leave him alone for God's sakes!"

Did you like Fall Brawl? The WCW Dream Team looked mighty impressive, didn't they? Kind of like the freshmen challenging the varsity. War Games is called The Match Beyond, why? It wasn't too tough for The NWO."

"We like our new limos, the ones WCW bought for us. We like our new jet airplanes, the ones WCW bought for us. We like our escorts to and from the ring, the ones WCW provide," Hall said. "I'm starting to like WCW more and more. Ted Turner's country club environment, hey, it's not too bad ... but The NWO is that much better!"

"The Nomad" is an American journalist, hired by The New World Order to report the facts as they are. "The Nomad" is a tireless reporter with bountiful sources worldwide. More than that, "The Nomad" sees eye-to-eye with Kevin Nash, Scott Hall and Hulk Hogan. "The Nomad" trusts them and they trust "The Nomad." The New World Order is the most fearsome force in the universe and, when sitting in front of a computer, "The Nomad" is a most uncontrollable scribe. "The Nomad" is a censor's nightmare.



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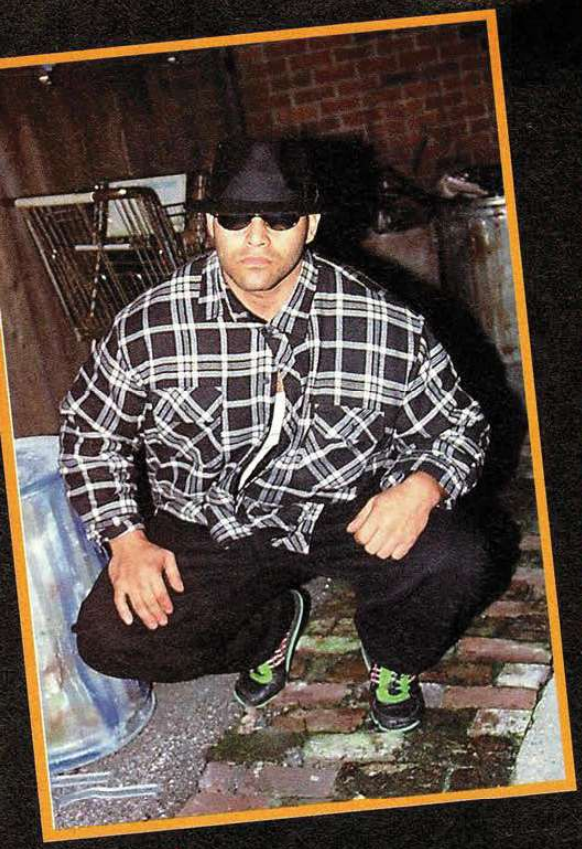


The present-day Konan is not a Halloween costume, nor a facade for the friendly, out-going amigo we knew when the summer started. Ever since his arrival in WCW, Konan has been one of the most caring, upstanding wrestlers around. But that was then.

The present-day Konan is a cold, cunning, calculating hoodlum, a rebel with a cause: support The Dungeon of Doom at all expense and represent Latin gang members with pride. This is Konan now.

"I tried to come in to WCW and show spectacular style to please the fans, but that wasn't getting me anywhere. So I am now taking care of business the best way I know how: as an OG, an original gangster," Konan said during the most revealing — and life-threatening — interview ever conducted by WCW Magazine. Konan now only answers questions on his time, when he feels like it and, more important, where he feels like it. He told WCW Magazine that he would be available Sept. 18 in East Los Angeles, his barrio, which was several weeks after he made his shocking appearance at a ringside seat at Monday Nitro in Palmetto, Fla., in dramatically different attire (Konan gave no reason why that specific date, nor why he would only speak with WCW Magazine Executive Editor Ross Forman. Mystery, it seems, is Konan's mainstay these days.)

"When I first came into WCW, Kevin Sullivan had been in Mexico scouting talent for The Dungeon of Doom," Konan continued. "He originally invited me to join, but I declined because I've always preferred to go at it alone. But, I quickly noticed that everyone seems to have some alliance here in WCW, be it The Four Horsemen, The Dungeon of Doom, etc. Then, when I lost my (U.S. Heavyweight) title to Ric Flair because of the intervention of Woman, I realized a change was necessary because there is safety in numbers."

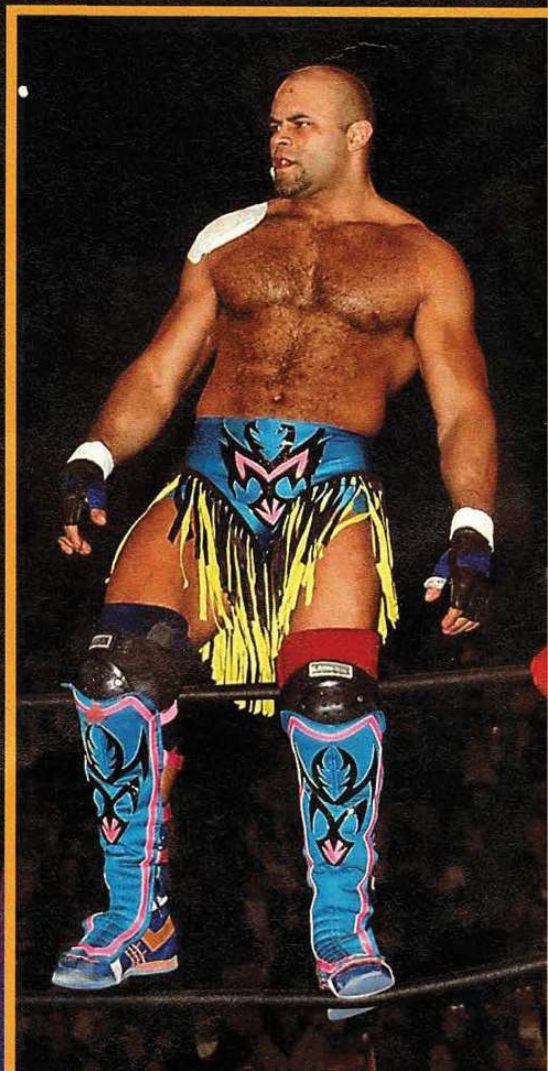
Sullivan re-issued his invitation and this time Konan jumped at the opportunity. And why not when, as a member of the Dungeon, you've got allies in Big Bubba, Maxx and The Faces of Fear (Meng and The Barbarian), among others.

"The persona that you are seeing now, although new to WCW, is nothing new to me because I grew up in the streets of Miami, San Diego, Los Angeles, Mexico City ... this is my everyday lifestyle: being a gangster. It's nothing new to me," said Konan, wearing baggy pants with a sag, a Pendleton shirt over a white T-shirt, a bandanna and his small black hat.

"What you see now is Konan being true to his Hispanic roots. I have no gang affiliation. I have cholos all around the world who I support, represent. Wrestling now is just a 'G' thing for me. That's why I want to send a shout out to all of the Latin Kings and Queens, particularly the New York and Chicago chapters; and also the Gangster Disciples and the ESE in East Los Angeles."

Konan has dumped the fans, forgotten his millions of adoring faithful, in Cuba (where he was born), Puerto Rico (where his dad was born) and Mexico (where he now lives), among other Spanish-speaking countries. Konan is now the manic Hispanic causing all of that panic.

"I've done everything there is to do in this sport in Mexico. I've broken every attendance record there is. I've done records, movies and soap operas. I'm a big name in Mexico City. Now I want to establish myself in America," said Konan, as we sat in his off-white low-rider cruising down Soto Street. "When you're looking for personal goals, you can't let the fans' feeling interfere with your own goals.



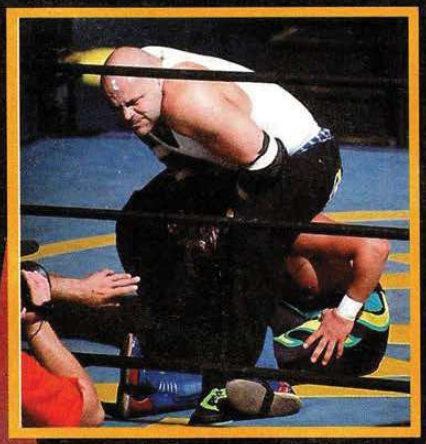
DUNGEON

That's why I now could care less about 'dem [them]. The fans have been programmed to cheer people who are pretty boys, and since I'm not a pretty boy, I don't care about the fans. This is just the way I choose to wrestle. I like a rough and ready style. If you can't like me this way, you shouldn't like me at all because that's how I am."

"I am thrilled to be in The Dungeon of Doom because there are such great wrestlers in it. You've got Kevin Sullivan, The Faces of Fear who probably are the two toughest guys in the entire wrestling industry. And we've also got Maxx, Hugh Morrus and Big Bubba. So, we've got plenty of backup to go against The Four Horsemen or NWO, or anyone else who steps in our way."

"This is the best group to join, the best career move I could have made."

Konan is now a less spectacular, more aggressive wrestler who focuses completely on acquiring the win. By hook or by crook. Career-ending shots to an opponents knee ... Konan will do them. Poking



someone in the eyes ... of course, he says. Delivering a low-blow ... if need be.

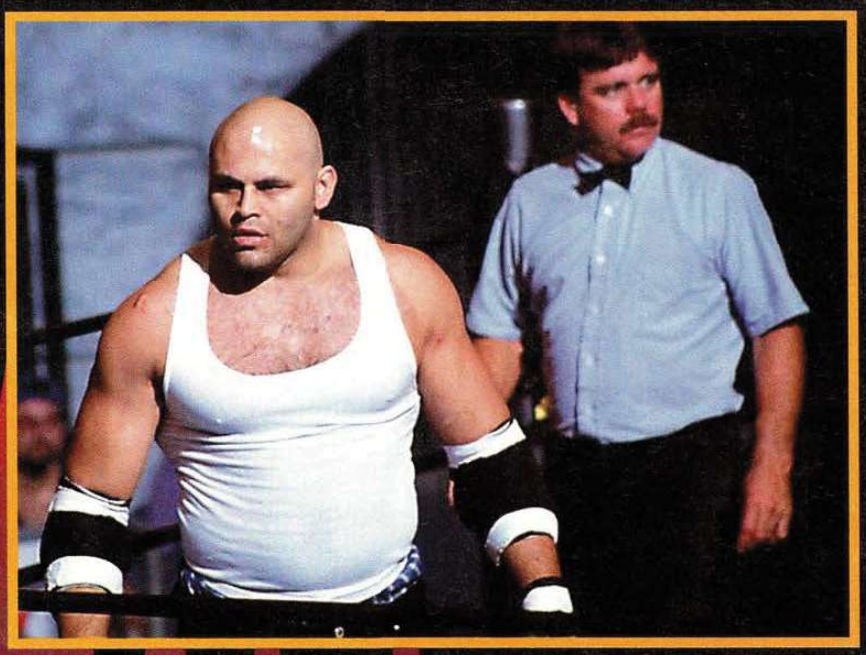
"I'm kind of like a drive-by," Konan began, "I will leave my permanent tag on WCW."

Said former wrestler Terry Taylor, now a WCW front-office executive, "Konan is just a thug, a street thug who is letting his true colors shine through. This is the real Konan — not the Konan we saw when he first arrived in WCW; that Konan was swimming up-stream."

Still, the Konan of early-1996 was a titlist, a champion with integrity. Now, his version of a championship strap appears to be his car (which he can make do any number of "tricks," such as becoming a three-wheeler of sorts and "pancake" down to the ground), and the contents of his car.

(We at WCW Magazine chose not to disclose the contents of Konan's car because, plain and simply, they are part of a lifestyle that we do not support at all.)

"I'm not with any one gang. Rather, I'm here representing all people who lead this lifestyle," Konan said as we turned onto a crime-ridden section of Brooklyn Avenue. "Things will be cool here if



you stay calm and trust me."

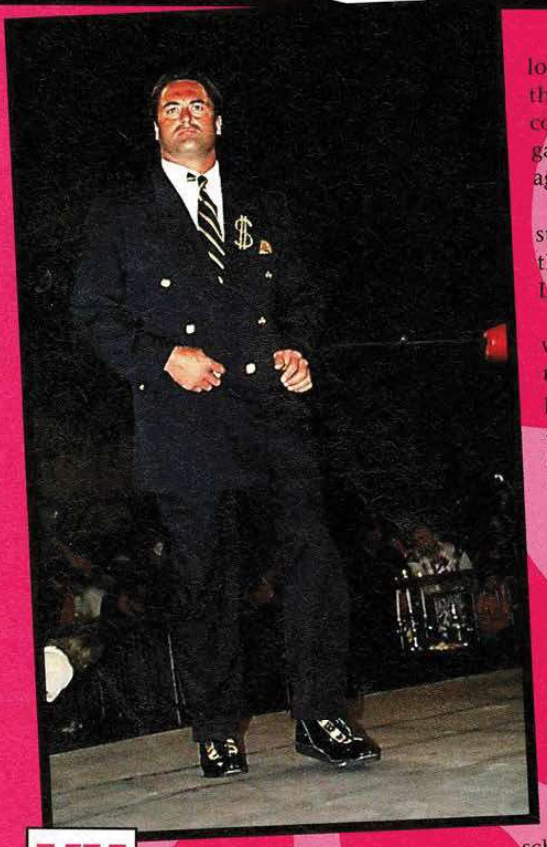
(Several of Konan's "friends" approached the car as we stopped at a corner, each asking about this unknown companion. Luckily, Konan always responded, "Orale No

Hay Pedo."
In English: Yo, ain't no problem here.)

"This is, I'm sure, not your normal interview ... but I'm not your normal wrestler. Just ask Rey Mysterio, Jr., that little punk who I discovered. I brought him to Mexico City from Tijuana. I'm his idol. He's seen my soap operas. He's bought my records. I'm nothing but a God to him. I'm going to intimidate him. And the same goes for Juventud Guerrera, Psychosis and any one of the other Mexican wrestlers who want to step in the ring with me. I'm just going to wipe them out. They're going to pay a very heavy price if they're not on my side."

NWO BOUND?

WCW Magazine went to Rotunda's Gourmet Coffee & Pastries in Brooksville, Fla., to learn a little more about the man called V.K. Wallstreet, one of the most private individuals around. We had a 10 a.m. appointment with the wrestler best known for his stock tips ... and boy were we surprised to learn what we did, thanks to our journalistic instincts — not thanks to Wallstreet.



VK Wallstreet's suit, an Armani no doubt, was pressed to perfection. His white shirt illuminated his dark tan. His red tie was straight off the campaign trail. In front of Wallstreet was a cup of steaming coffee and USA TODAY, with the green Money section on top, the Tampa Tribune and, of course, the Wallstreet Journal. He also had several pens as he highlighted and charted select stocks.

"As usual, V.K. Wallstreet's stock remains high," he said with his wry smile. "In the past, I have had my ups and downs in WCW, but, if you are an astute student of the stock market, you know that things come in gains and losses. You have to rebound from those losses, pick yourself up and continue to assess your talent in the game you're in to come back on top again."

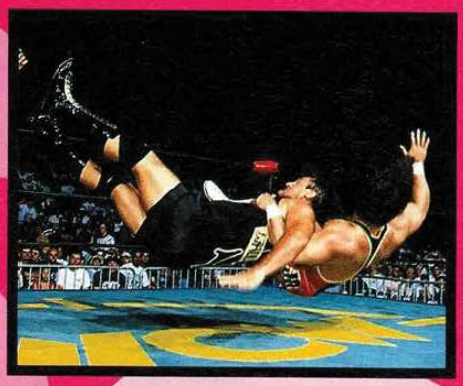
"You always have to keep going, stay with your game-plan and, in the long run, you will be on top. Like V.K. Wallstreet."

"Obviously there is a great deal of wrestling talent in WCW. The reason for that is, WCW is the place to be in our sport today. And when you have that situation, people are going to come out from everywhere, every street, every corner, every country. This is where the money is. This is where the prestige is."

Wallstreet returned to WCW about a year ago after a booming success at the World Wrestling Federation. Why? It's a better business opportunity, he said without looking up.

"After wrestling in another promotion and having to travel the world, this was an easier schedule and a perfect opportunity to concentrate on my business ventures outside of the wrestling ring," Wallstreet said as we were interrupted by a Federal Express delivery man. Two letters were placed in front of Wallstreet, on top of his NASDAQ charts. He snarled at the Fed Ex driver, then pushed the packages to the side, close to Ross Forman of WCW Magazine. We couldn't help but look ("Hey, that's my journalistic training coming out," Ross later said.)

Amazingly, both packages were from ... well, actually, neither was signed with a name. They both just said: $$$$ in the "From" section. We were shocked as, to us, that only meant one person: Ted DiBiase. Could it really be the Ted DiBiase? He of NWO fame? Wallstreet's former tag team partner? Wallstreet's former business partner? We had to ask.

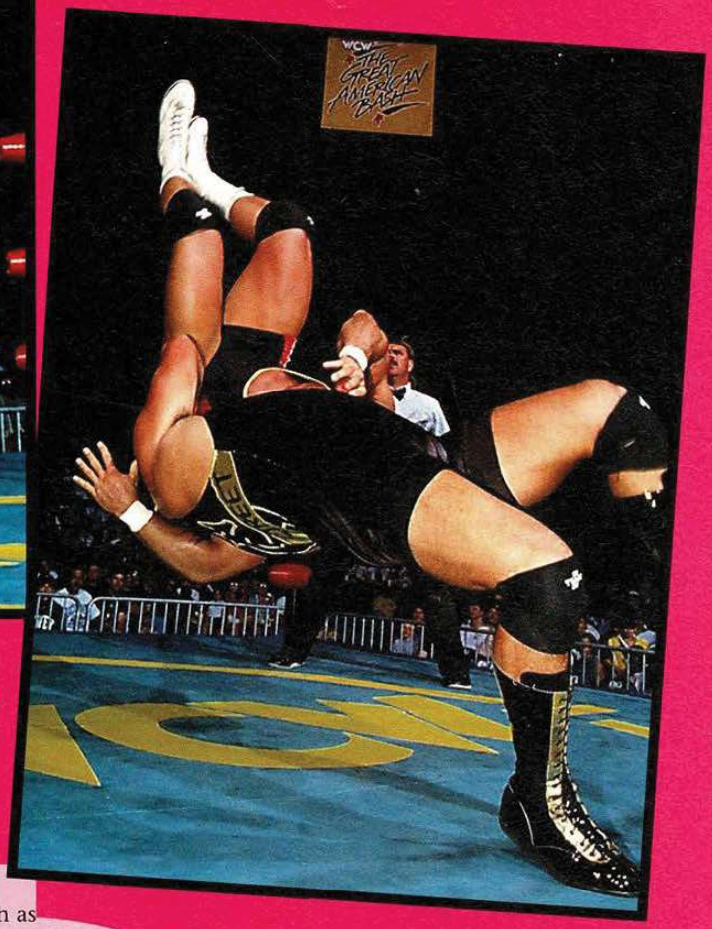


"It's no secret that Ted DiBiase and I go back over the years. We've been tag team champions for another promotion and have had business ventures together. I definitely have been keeping my eye on Ted DiBiase, the man who is now the center-piece for the New World Order," Wallstreet said. "Are these packages from him? Well, that's for me to know and you to find out. I will not confirm nor deny anything concerning my personal business, especially as it relates to Ted DiBiase."

"Sure, we have always kept in touch, even when I first came to WCW and he was elsewhere. But that doesn't mean anything. Ted DiBiase is a businessman. V.K. Wallstreet is a businessman. If the timing is right, and the money is right, sure, I will join Ted DiBiase and The NWO."

Wow! We were shocked! Particularly because Wallstreet had more to say on the subject.

"In the world of professional wrestling, you often have to be patient, lurk in the background and wait for the right opportunity, the right time.



I've seen careers turn around almost instantly. So fast, in fact, that it's almost mind-boggling," Wallstreet said. "I am a veteran so I know the importance of timing more than anyone. When the time is right, you make your move. And that's what I will do. If joining The NWO could be a profitable venture, sure I'd listen. I will look at anything that's profitable; that's why I am a rich man."

"What Hulk Hogan has done was something that was coming over a number of years. People expected things from Hulk Hogan, but, realistically, he did not owe anyone anything. And I don't think these fans understand that. Hulk Hogan just snapped and the rest is history. What Hulk Hogan is now doing is, assembling some great talent around him. And I personally believe The New World Order will eventually take over World Championship Wrestling. The way I look at it is, what Hulk Hogan did was a business venture. And how can you fault a man for starting a new business? You can't! At some point, the fans have to realize that you have to make a decision as to what's best for you, what's best for the people closest to you. And it doesn't matter whether or not people like it or not."

"We've spoken enough about Hulk Hogan, Ted DiBiase and The NWO for now. If you have other subjects to discuss, that's fine. Otherwise this interview is over!"

OK, then, let's talk about your glory years at Syracuse University, when you were a football AND wrestling standout. When you played football (as a defensive end) with the likes of Art Monk, Joe Morris and Gary Anderson, among others. When Syracuse played as an Independent, yet still had annual games against Penn State, Maryland and Pittsburgh. When you wrestled for the Eastern Heavyweight champion and in the AAU Nationals.

"Being at Syracuse gave me the advantage of gaining a lot of contacts in the business world, such as Bob Costas," Wallstreet said. "Plus, I learned a lot of discipline."

Wallstreet graduated in 1981.

"I think every high school football player who goes into the college ranks has an aspiration of making it into the NFL," Wallstreet said. "In my situation, I thought I may have had the opportunity to play linebacker in the NFL. But it didn't work out."

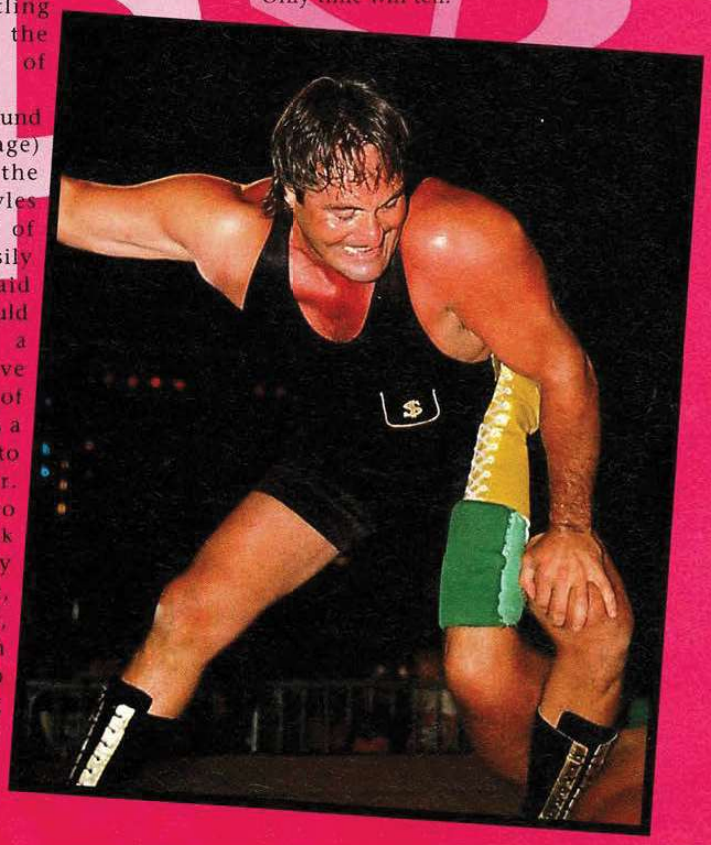
So he started training for the professional wrestling ranks, under the watchful eye of The Destroyer.

"Having been around wrestling since (age) 12, I picked up the professional styles quicker than a lot of people. It came easily to me," said Wallstreet, who would soon become a champion. "I have been around a lot of good talent, which is a plus when it came to learning quicker. Such as The Brisco Brothers (Jack and Jerry), Rowdy Roddy Piper, Dick Murdoch, Dusty Rhodes, Don Muraco and Bob Orton Jr., among others. I was able to feed off those guys and learn a lot."

Wallstreet has been a titlist in every promotion he has wrestled. But will gold return now that he's back in WCW?

"V.K. Wallstreet is one of the best amateur-turned-professional wrestlers of all time," said WCW broadcaster Mike Tenay.

Will he re-unite with Ted DiBiase? Only time will tell.



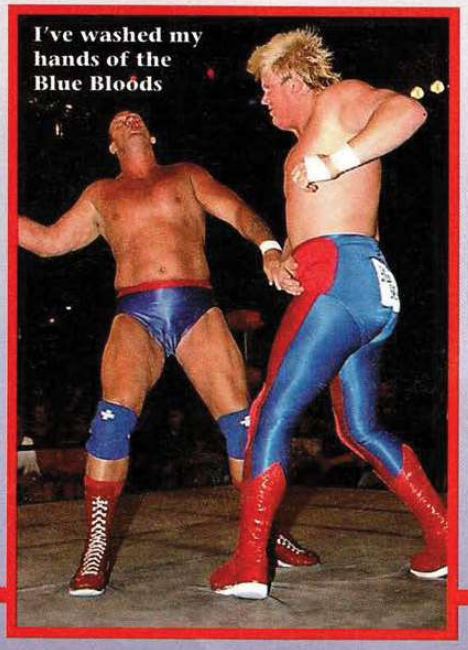
THE Regal DECREE

BLACKPOOL, England - I have quite a number of issues to discuss this month as I sit here at home, and there's no place better to start than with a salute to the hero: Your Lordship who, for the third time in my illustrious career, has captured the WCW TV Title. This time with a WCW Saturday Night victory over that useless Lex Luger. I warned all of the champions in WCW that I was going to pick on one of them. Let's see, there's WCW World Heavyweight Champion Hulk Hogan (and note that I said WCW champion, not NWO champion). Anyway, due to the politics involved with acquiring a title shot, especially with all of the turmoil in WCW at present due to Hogan's involvement with The New World Order, the WCW Executive Committee would not let me get anywhere close to him. Then you've got the WCW U.S. Championship, held by Ric Flair who, although an American, meaning gaudy and brash, is, I would say, the greatest wrestler that America has ever produced. And since I was in a rather charitable mood that week, I chose not to challenge him. Lex Luger, on the other hand, was ripe for the pickings. Just because he has a lot of muscles and is quite athletic, that still does not make him a good wrestler. And he was degrading the belt that I held with pride twice previously. So, I decided to abuse him for the evening. I warned him that if he took me lightly or started flexing those pecs that I was going to rip his shoulders out of their sockets, and that's exactly what I did. I'm not one for empty promises. As I said on TV after winning the title, I am going to make the WCW TV Title into a belt that has a class and dignity to it. The U.S. belt is not really a belt that I would want to win ... because I am not from America and despise all Americans. I am going to bring some credibility back to WCW by defending the TV Title all around the world. In England, Germany, Japan, India, South Africa ... anywhere there's a wrestling ring, if I think there's an opponent worthy of a match, I will fight him — and beat him. And, by doing so, I will bring credibility back to WCW. That is my goal and, as every one of you peasants know, when I set a goal, I accomplish it.

In the next few columns, you will see a diary of sorts of my travels.

In last month's magazine, I mentioned that there were no problems between Squire David Taylor and Earl Robert Eaton. At press time, there were no problems. But, it's obvious that there are problems. Personally, I plan to keep out of the way of all this nonsense; however, I think I'm going to have to put the blame on Squire David because I never had any problems with Earl Robert. It appears as though Squire David could not keep Earl Robert in line, so, I say, let them sort out their differences. As far as I'm concerned, Mr. Eaton probably will no longer be an acquaintance of mine, but he was a good one for a while, I will confess that. I cannot say much more than that.

Now my major topic for this month: Madusa's column from last month's magazine. I found it quite hilarious. She made some slanderous comments about me, so I will now set the record straight. It is true that eight years ago, while wrestling in Germany, Madusa did come over and, according to her little story, she said we trained together and then 'talked shop.' Now, I do have a sense of humor to die for; I have been born to laugh at the misfortunes of others which is a great way of getting through life. Now to the real story ... about eight years ago, in Germany, she came over to wrestle. She saw how talented I was and came groveling — and I do mean groveling — to me in hopes that I would teach her some wrestling moves. At the time, you see, she was quite useless as a wrestler, so I did offer some pointers. That's why most of what you see in Madusa's wrestling ability came from me. The thing is, I did not want to see that silly cow on the floor groveling for my help; I hate to see a woman grovel. SO I was the perfect gentleman, even to someone well below my standards.


I've washed my hands of the Blue Bloods

Mr. Eric Bischoff has an occasional column in WCW Magazine and, being the Executive Vice-President/General Manager of WCW, he deserves one. I look forward to reading future columns from Mr. Bischoff because I'm sure he will offer a unique perspective on this sport.

I am so disgusted and distraught at the way The NWO and WCW are making a mockery of the wrestling business ... that's why I am particularly glad to be away from the United States.

I think someone needs to stand-up to Hulk Hogan, Scott Hall, Kevin Nash and all of the other NWO members. Their shenanigans need to be stopped! The NWO is out of control! They remind me of the soccer hooligans which I'm sure even you Americans have seen on television. My belief is, when they catch a soccer hooligan, that person should be strapped to a tree and flogged. The same thing should happen to The NWO, maybe worse. The NWO has taken soccer hooliganism into the next dimension. They are utter thugs, a disgrace to humanity. The vandalism and carnage that they are causing is quite shocking. Especially when you consider that Hogan, Hall and Nash each have children. How proud must their children be to sit at home and watch their dad smash a $40,000 Nitro broadcast set? What will that lead to? Well, considering the mentality of the Americans who watch the incredibly popular Nitro, all the Americans will copy The NWO, and that makes for a terribly, terribly frightening thought.

Just a couple more matters this month ... Rugby League, which I consider, next to wrestling, the greatest sport in the world, has finally started again. Believe me when I say this is an incredibly tough sport, not like American football where you wear pads all over. It is incredibly violent, and played without any padding. It is far more exciting than any American football game.

Next, Oasis, which all of America and England seem to be obsessed with. I believe these are two outstanding gentlemen with wonderful habits, and I know both are in bed before 11 each night, not like the American rock stars who are abusive to their bodies.

Until next month, tally ho.

Yours Loyally
Lord Alistair Regal
Blackpool
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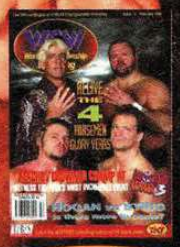
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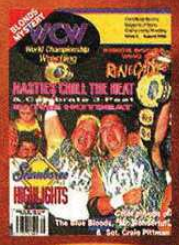
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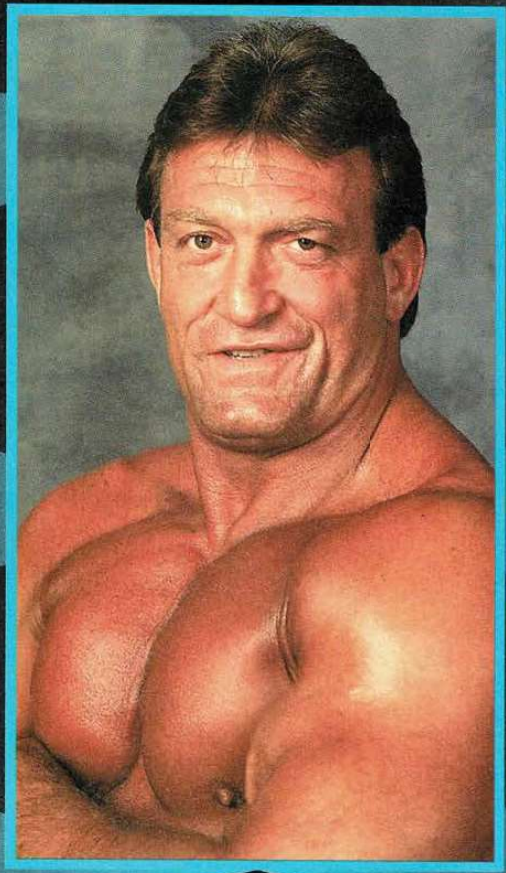
Where are they now?

Paul Orndorff

Every time I walk past his office on the 12th floor of CNN Center inside the headquarters of World Championship Wrestling, I reflect. Paul "Mr. Wonderful" Orndorff sits there, on a big, padded, comfortable chair overlooking downtown Atlanta. How can I — or anyone — not remember the good-old-days when the hated Orndorff, his temper as nasty as any, stepped through the ropes. He was a star singles competitor during wrestling's hey-day of the 1980s, then, in the 1990s, became a champion tag team wrestler. Paul Orndorff was one of the all-time greats, a sure Hall of Famer.

But now he sits at his desk charting the course for WCW's future. He is a member of WCW's Executive Committee. Active wrestling, it seems, has passed this proud Floridian. The savage attack he endured by The Four Horsemen ended, it appears, one of the greatest careers of all-time.



Earlier this summer, "Mr. Wonderful" endured a five hour surgery by Dr. Barth Green at the Nick B Spinal Cord Paralysis Center in Miami. He had the fifth and sixth cervical vertebrae removed, and the area fused together with bone. Plus, Dr. Green put two platinum plates in his back.

The surgery, according to Dr. Green, was a success, although it will take another year or so before full nerve damage is repaired. Then, "Mr. Wonderful" could return to wrestling. Or, if he was still playing competitive football, like he did in the collegiate (Tampa) and pro ranks, he could return to that as well. In the meantime, "Mr. Wonderful" trains daily, trying to improve his damaged right side.

Will he return?

"I don't know yet. Right now I'm still up in the air as to whether I want to return to the ring, or hang 'em up for good," Orndorff said. "I would suspect I will (retire), but you never know."

If we've seen the last of the arrogant Orndorff, one of the most-hated wrestlers of the modern era, we must say "Good-bye" to a legend. Not a legend in his mind. But a legend of the squared-circle. Love him or hate him, and you can bet there were millions more who hated him over the past 20-plus years, you have to respect Paul "Mr. Wonderful" Orndorff.

"If I had to change some things from my career, yeah, I would have changed some. Namely, my temper. I think it probably held me back some," Orndorff said. "If I would have thought before I said some things, I probably could have gotten farther."

But when it came to ability, no one was better. Paul "Mr. Wonderful" Orndorff, who earned $15 per match when he first started, was a great one. His piledriver has yet to be matched.

"I was a main part of wrestling when it was as hot as it was years ago; that's something I'm very proud of," Orndorff said.

Ah, yes, the Orndorff-Hulk Hogan feud of years past. Memorable, to say the least. The two set records at every arena they wrestled. They attracted 72,000 fans in Toronto and sold out Madison Square Garden in New York each and every match.

"Wrestling Hulk Hogan ... that was my highlight. Absolutely. Bar none," Orndorff said. "There have been a lot of other people who have had their shot at Hogan over the years, but, none equal the (attendance) numbers we did."

So, Paul, what about the Hulk Hogan of 1996, the evil force spear-heading The NWO's hostile takeover of WCW?

"With Hulk Hogan, it's not about money. It's not about ego. It's not about pride. It is all about power!! Power. That's it, plain and simple," Orndorff said. "Hulk Hogan has everyone shocked. Has he flipped? Nah. I don't think so. Hulk Hogan is a very smart man, very calculating. He knows every move he is going to do. No one is even on the same level with him when it comes to wrestling. No one. Do I agree with what he's doing? No way, and that's coming from one of the original rebels in this sport. What Hulk Hogan is doing now is strictly for personal reasons, and his reasons alone. What he is doing now ... it's a slap in the face of everyone associated with this great sport. Especially people like myself who work in the front-office and are loyal, very loyal to WCW. I don't agree with what Hulk Hogan is doing. Not at all. He's messing with people's livelihoods. He's really caused a bad scene here."

However, Orndorff tells me that WCW has a plan to hinder Hogan & Co. And it includes a few surprises, Orndorff said.

"We're not just sitting back and taking The NWO. Not at all. We get up in the morning and think about how to stop The NWO. We go to sleep thinking about how to stop The NWO," he said. "Right now Hulk Hogan is riding high, but, in time, he will eventually make a boo-boo. And we will then stomp him."

"This whole thing with Hulk Hogan and The NWO caught us off-guard. Sure, I'll admit that. But we'll get even, even if it takes some time. We do have a counter to what he's doing."

And if Orndorff is part of the crew to counter Hogan, we can breathe a little easier.

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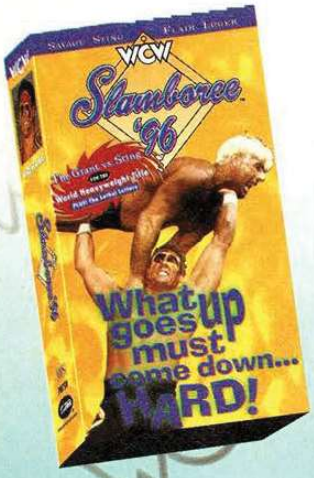

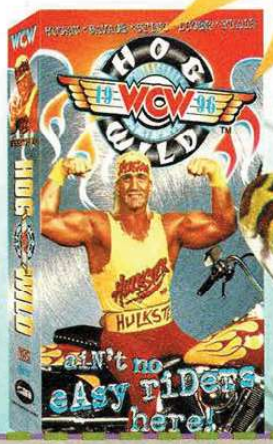

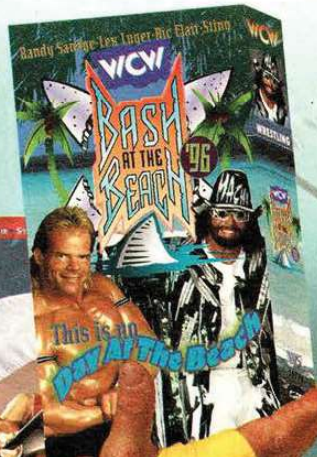

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HOTLIN

MARK MADDEN

DISCLAIMER: This column features the comments and thoughts of Mark Madden. WCW Magazine nor WCW endorse or agree with his opinions and any complaints should be made to the man himself.

If you ran into Lord Steven Regal at Pleasure Beach amusement park in Blackpool, England, between 1983 and 1993, chances are the experience was not real amusing.

Regal started his pro wrestling career at Pleasure Beach, which features wrestling regularly during the summer. At the tender age of 15, Regal answered the Pleasure Beach wrestling troupe's open challenge several times. Any spectator stupid, er, brave enough to challenge the troupe's wrestler of choice could earn a hundred pounds sterling by either knocking out his foe or by lasting three, three minute rounds.

The chances of doing either were, and are, slim and none. Regal learned the lesson as a challenger. He taught it as a wrestler. He battled challengers out of the crowd at Pleasure Beach until just before coming to WCW in 1993.

"You know, I just went to the park yesterday," said Regal, calling from England while touring his World TV Title. "It is just like it was. A row of wrestlers standing at the park entrance, and a guy with a microphone making the challenge. Well, when I was 15 I thought I knew the professional wrestling business. I didn't. In fact, I'm still learning."

"So I went to the promoter, Bobby Baron, and said, 'I'd like to be a wrestler, please.' And he said, 'You have to challenge that man there.'"

That man was 6-foot-6 Col. Sean Brady.

"He'd been in the military, so that was his gimmick. He had a shaven, bald head and a handlebar mustache, and he wore a beret. He was a lean man, but he was very tall."

"So I'm sitting there, waiting to wrestle, and my nerves were completely shot. You'd get some plants, and you'd get some straight guys, too, and you'd really have to fight. I was a straight, but I'm sure Brady looked at me and thought, no problem. I was this chubby 15 year old who had no idea."

"So he beat me half to death. He just slapped me about and put me away with a half-Boston Crab submission job. I can laugh about it now, but back then ... My grandfather Bill Matthews, was a pro wrestler, and he had half clued me up. But he hadn't bothered to clue Col. Brady up. So I went back home with my tail between my legs."

But Regal came back. He kept getting his butt whipped, but one day Bobby Baron said, "You really want to be a wrestler, don't you?" And before long Regal had joined the troupe.

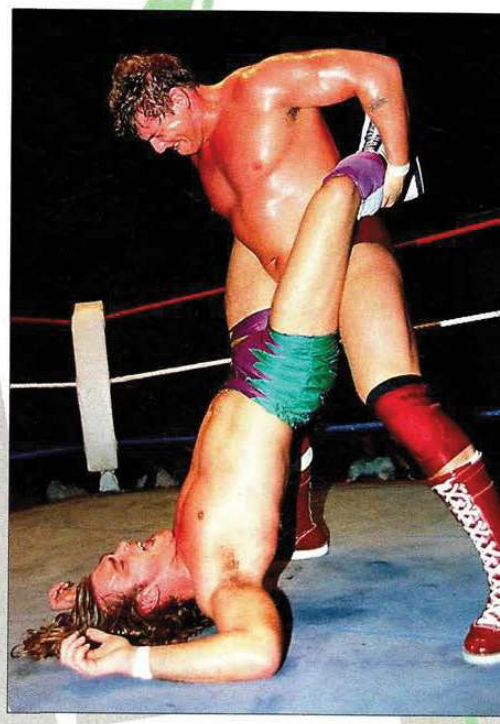
"After three months, I was on the inside," Regal said. "I had some matches with some lightweight guys and, by the way, I hate the lack of respect shown to lightweight wrestlers. As Rey Mysterio Jr. is proving, performance matters, not size."

Performance really started to matter when Regal started taking on straights from the crowd. Regal notes that most times, the wrestler that took on the spectator wore a mask.

"That way, he could rip the mask off and pop out the back unrecognized if some thing bad happened." Regal said.

And something bad did happen. But always to the challenger. Sometimes the fight didn't even make it in to the ring.

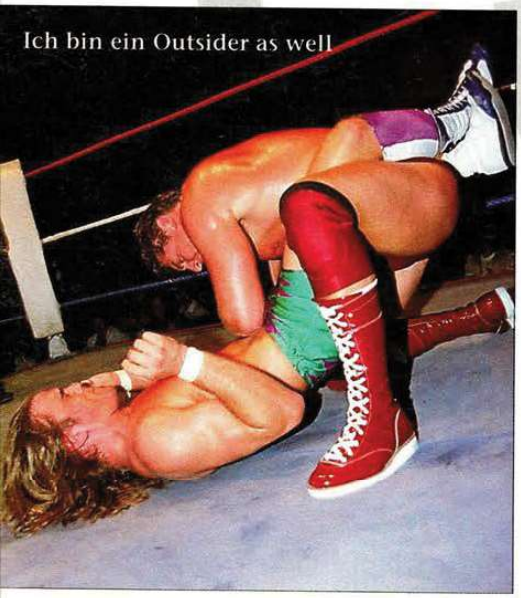
"Everyone signed a waiver, and besides, not everyone sues at the drop of a hat in England," Regal said. "But one thing we were told not to do was to take anyone who was drunk in to the ring. So, if I smelled alcohol on the guy's breath when he took the challenge, I would flat-arm him in the mouth right then and there. If it didn't knock him out, it usually made the guy back out. Nine out of ten were usually drunk. Sometimes a bunch of drunks would get one of their gang to jump into the ring during a match between two of our wrestlers. We'd catch him with his head between the ropes and kick him right in the face. The violence was ungodly sometimes."



And sometimes a sober challenger would materialize.

"First thing you do is look into their eyes. Sometimes you'll look into their eyes and know that you have got them. It doesn't take long then. You kick them, then you throw them over the top rope onto a table. Or let them get you in a headlock, then suplex them right on their head to finish them off."

"But people always tried. A hundred pounds is a lot of money to a working man in England. Rugby players, amateur wrestlers, amateur boxers ... they all tried. England is a



Ich bin ein Outsider as well

hard place, a cold, miserable, damp place and it produces hard men. There's not a lot of money so people are brought up hard. Mummy and Daddy aren't always looking after them."

"But when these men actually got in the ring at Blackpool, with 750 people watching sometimes, well, you could see when they took off their shirts they were going to bottle it. Nine out of ten had the look of losing on their face."

Regal would quickly accommodate that look.

"You could work them into doing silly things," he said. "Only two guys tried to come at me with fists. Most tried to wrestle me, and how much sense does that make, to wrestle a wrestler? Like I said, I would let them grab a headlock, suplex them right on their heads, put on a facebar and that was it. If the guy was a loudmouth and tried to make a fool out of me, I wouldn't be so quick. I'd beat the hell out of him."

"Even if someone did manage to get a hold, well, I'd have something of theirs too. It really didn't matter what part I had, I could stick on a submission, make them scream."

Occasionally, a worthy challenger would materialize.

"One chap came up wearing a chain with gold boxing gloves on it. He was very polite. We would always give the guy time to think about it, then ask if he really wanted to do it. This guy said, 'Yes, I've always fancied trying it.' He sounded like me saying that I always wanted to be a wrestler."

"No one ever beat me at this. No one. But this guy lasted the first round. Oddly enough, he didn't try to box me. He grabbed me in a headlock and it was bang, on his head, facebar. But he didn't submit. He held on. I respected him a lot for that."

"Sometimes you just come out after that and boot the guy right in the face. But I decided, not this lad. I stood there in a boxing stance ready to punch it out with him. I was going to give this lad a chance to box me."

"And he just said, 'No, I've had enough.' And I thought, 'Thank God for that.' That lad showed me a lot."

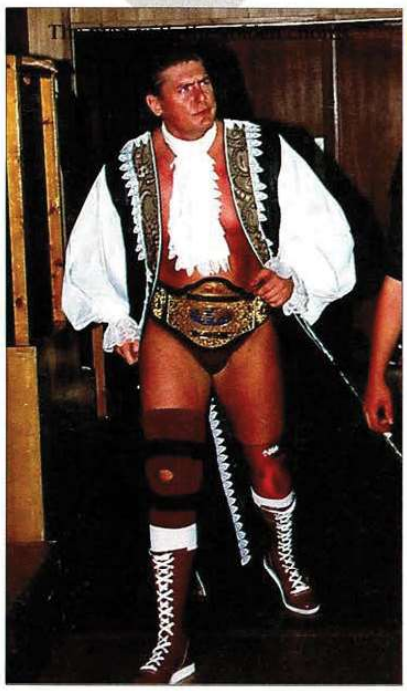
One challenger was hardly an athlete, but oddly formidable.

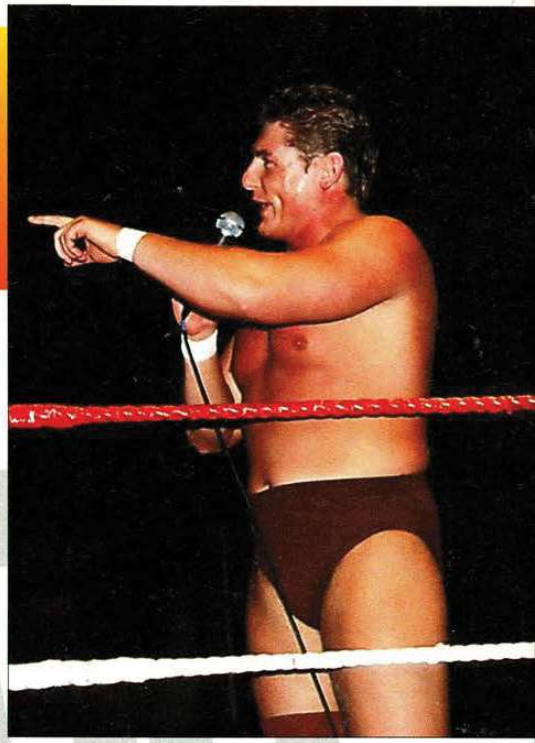
"There was this little fat guy like a greased pig that I just couldn't get rid of," said Regal. "He'd slip in and out and slap me in the mouth. Just slide under my arms. Pretty soon all the wrestlers were laughing, ho, ho, ho."

"So finally I got him on the ropes and pushed him. He stumbled and his backside was under the middle rope, so it was boom, boom, boom, I just punched him onto the apron. Then I just put the boots to the head until the match was stopped. Afterwards they put him in a taxi and off to the hospital he went. I felt bad but, you know, that's my job."

In America, it's been a long time since wrestlers boasted that they could lick any man in the house, then proved it. But things are still the same at Pleasure Beach.

"My grandfather was in his 80's, and he had showed me some wrestling holds and some submissions, but the only way to see if you know what you are doing is to get in there and try it," said Regal. "Thank God I tried it. Wrestling schools like the WCW Power Plant are great for what they are, but I don't think anything could duplicate what I





went through."

"It was amazing, really. It was more like a nightclub than anything else, a room with tables and chair with this ring in the middle. If people didn't like the way things were going in the ring, glasses would go flying. Sometimes, when you'd slap one of the drunks outside of the ring, it would turn out he had five or six friends, which was OK, because there were five or six of us. But sometimes he'd have 50 friends."

WCW inadvertently took a page from Pleasure Beach's book when a fan rushed the ring during Hulk Hogan's turn at Bash at the Beach. The fan was quickly stomped silly by Kevin Nash and Scott Hall. Many watching were shocked.

Not Steve Regal.

And if you want to ask someone if wrestling is fake, pick somebody else. Don't pick His Lordship.

"I served what was basically a two year apprenticeship when I started wrestling," Regal said. "I carried bags, I cleaned boots, I put up the ring ... one guy beat me up in the ring for pretty much two years straight. I used to lock myself in the toilet and cry. People have no idea how tough it was to get into the business in England, let alone stay in it. That's why almost any English wrestler - me, Davey Boy Smith, Dynamite Kid - we all fight at the drop of a hat."

No thanks, Your Lordship. Not at Pleasure Beach or anywhere else.

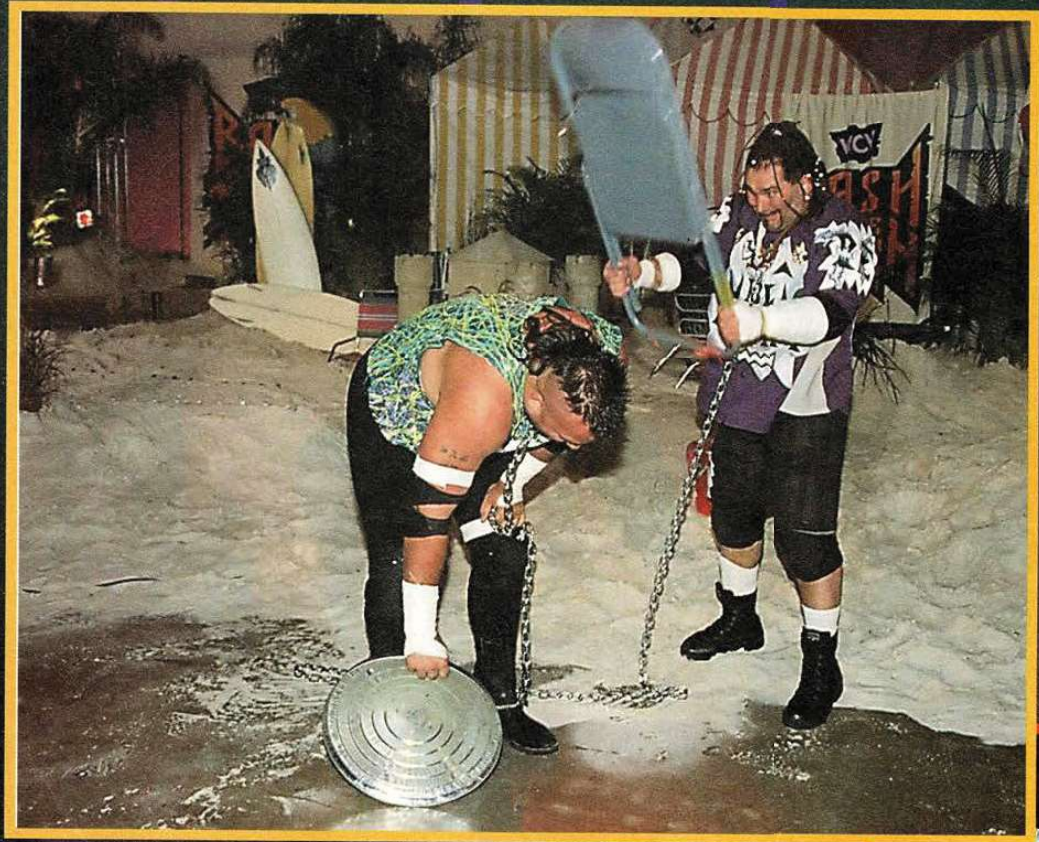
Mark Madden hosts the WCW Hotline updates on a Wednesday and Friday

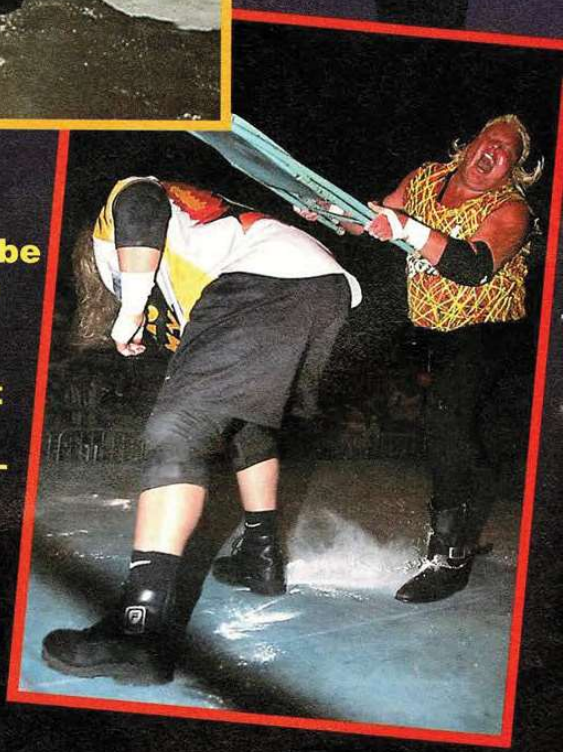
When is enough too much?

"For Public Enemy, nothing is too much. They haven't even come close to seeing what Nasty Sensation is all about. We have three words for those punks if they are brave enough to step back in the ring with us: bring it on!," said Knobs, the blonde-haired Nasty. "The Nasty Boys have been together as a team for over 11 years, and we've been slapping each other around for a lot longer than that. That's why Public Enemy doesn't scare us one bit. Not at all!"

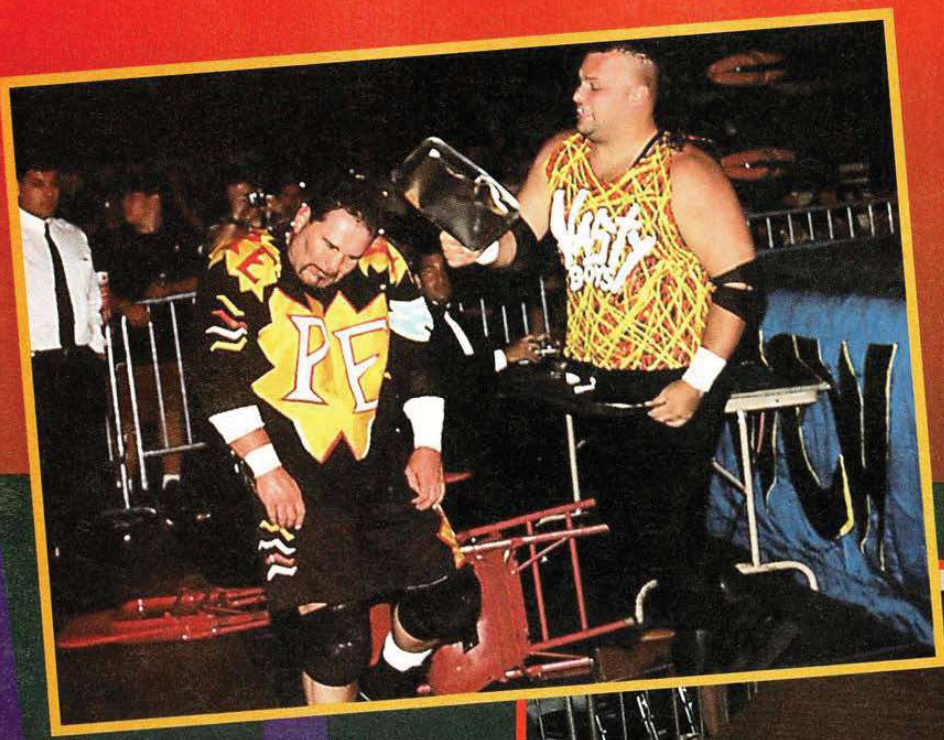
Said Rocco Rock, "We ain't trying to take over anything ... we're gonna take over! That's the whole scheme of our plan. We're not losers; we're winners! Sure, we may lose a few battles, but we never lose a war. The thing that The Nasty Boys don't understand is, they can't eat their way past the Public Enemy. They love tables, because that's what they put their food on. Public Enemy also loves tables, but that's because we like smashing Nasty Boys through them."

"The way we're looking at this war is, it's a matter of: Out



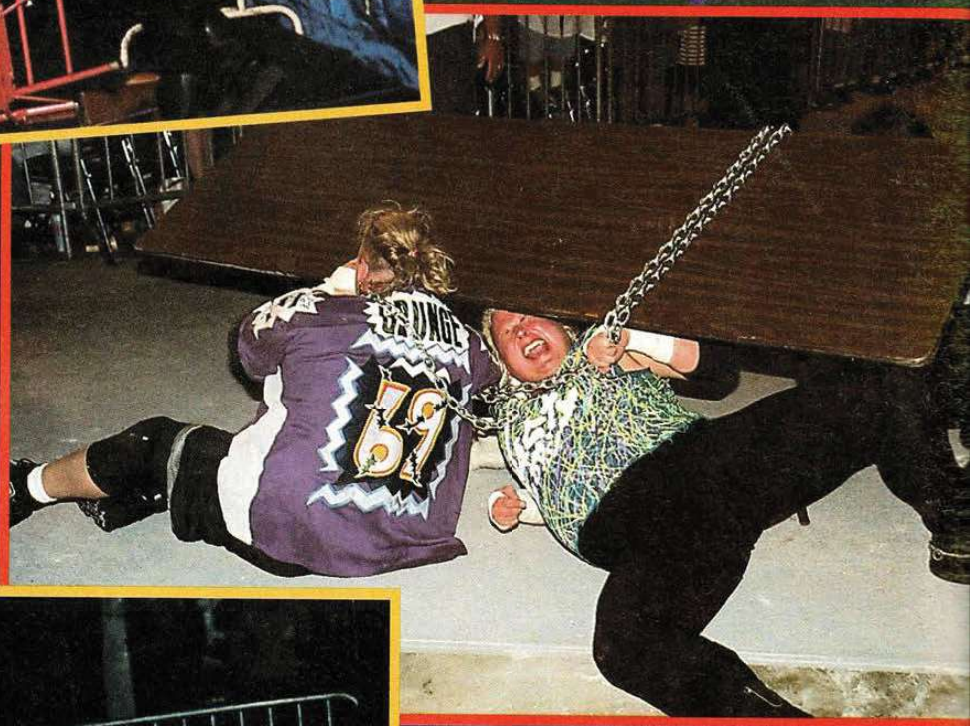


WCW trainer Chuck Tache cringes every time he hears the announcement of an upcoming Nasty Boys-Public Enemy match, be it on a Saturday Night show, a Monday Nitro or an arena show anywhere in the world. Tache refills all his medical supplies and braces for the worst. He knows bones might be broken and stretchers might be needed. In fact, Tache is surprised — as we all are — if bones are not broken when these four wage war. Brian Knobs and Jerry Sags, the veteran WCW tag team and former titlists, are defending their reputation as the roughest street thugs in the company. No matter what "Flyboy" Rocco Rock and Johnny Grunge say to the contrary.



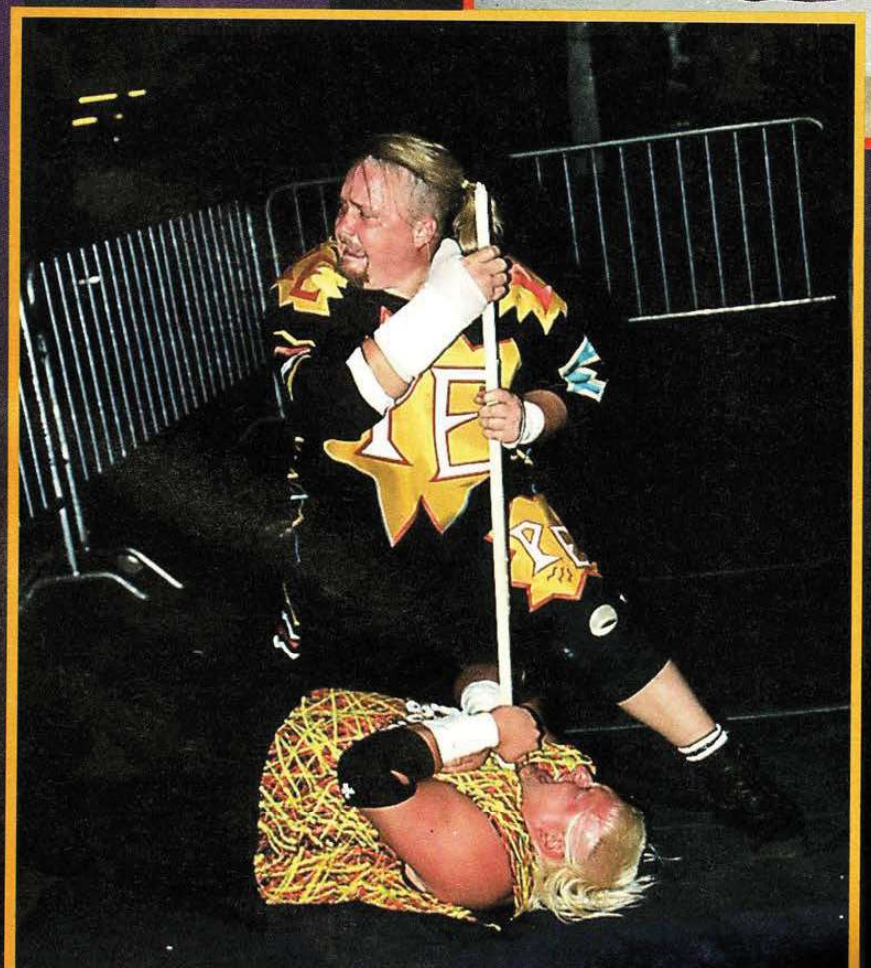
streets — that are on the line. Knobs and Sags are New York natives, while Public Enemy hails from the rough streets of Philadelphia. This goes way beyond the Philadelphia Eagles-New York Giants animosity.

"I think Public Enemy has been listening to its ring entrance music too much. The music goes, 'Lawdy-dawdy, we like to party.' Well, I think they've been partying too much. We're going to hit them with Nasty-Sensation and run them amuck," Sags said. "Public Enemy ... yeah, they are determined; yeah, they come from the streets; yeah, they are a good tag team. But they



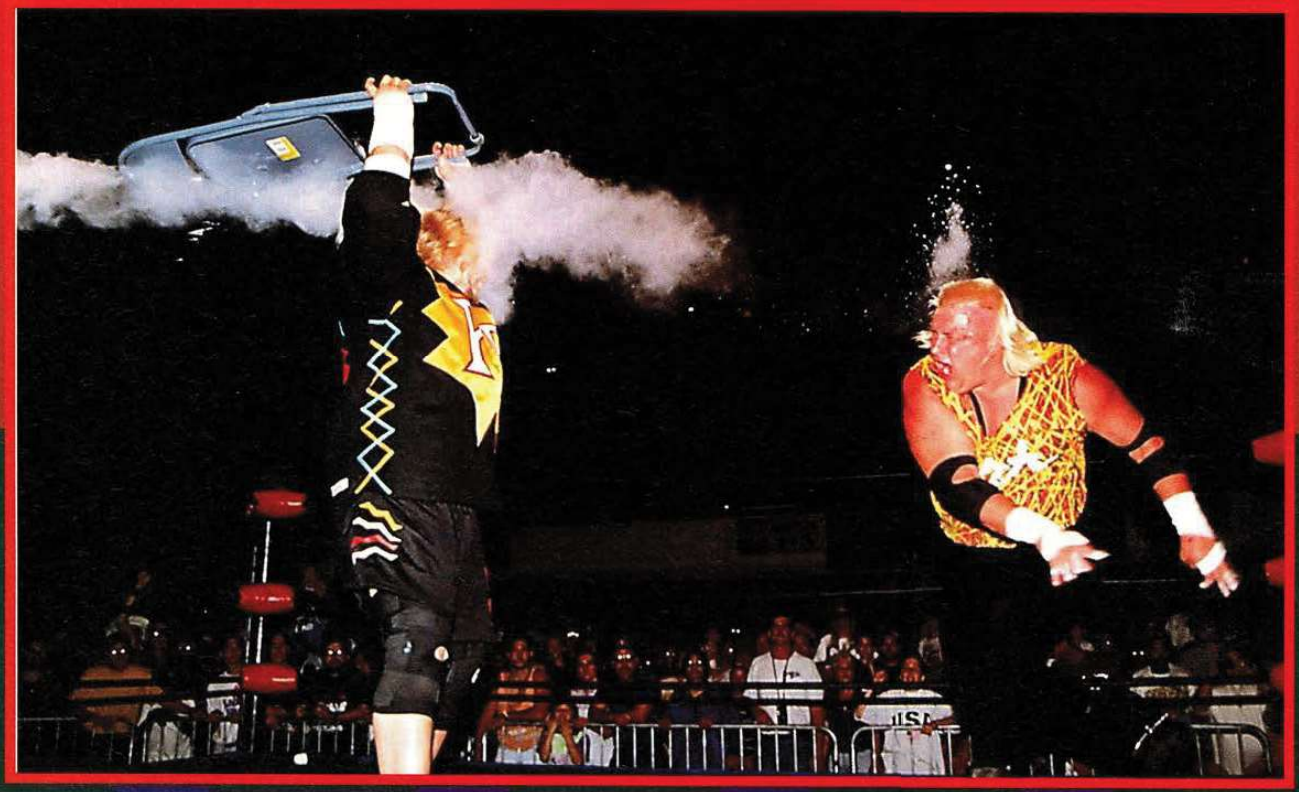
with the old, in with the new. It happens everywhere, from Presidents of the USA to company CEOs to the workers at McDonalds, the favorite hangout for Sags and Knobs. We just got here and we ain't ready to go."

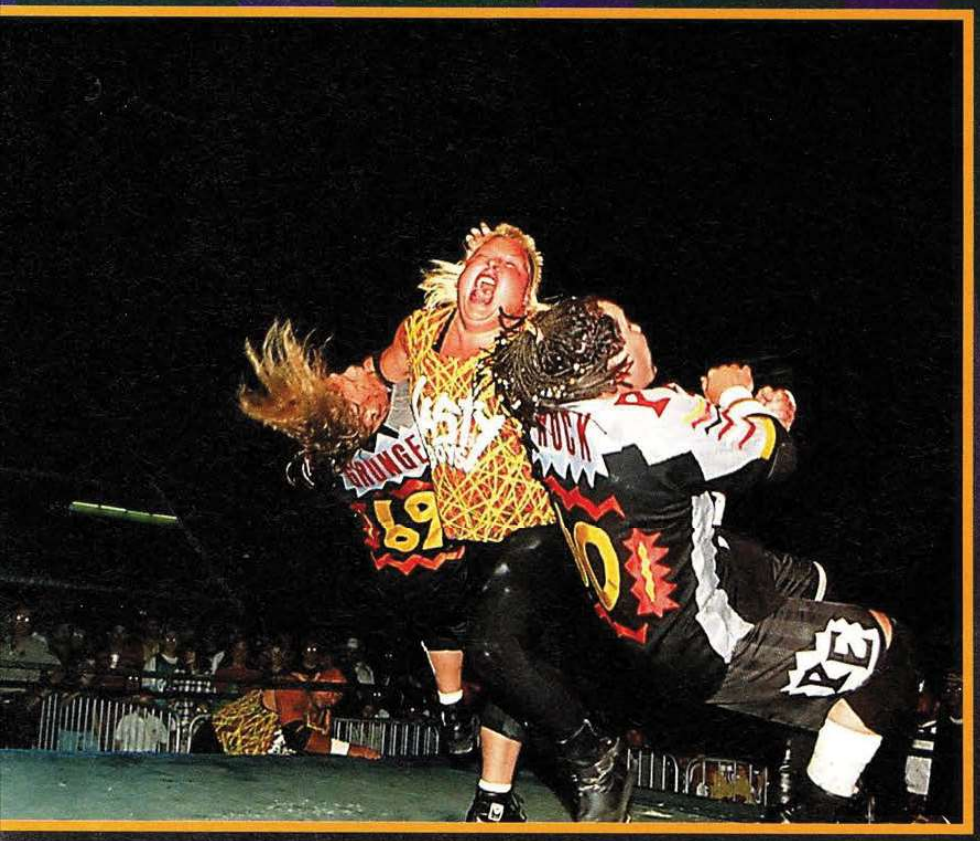
The bitter, violent rivalry has been non-stop since Public Enemy's arrival in WCW. The WCW Tag Team Championship are not at stake when they do battle. Nope, it's just bragging rights — for the

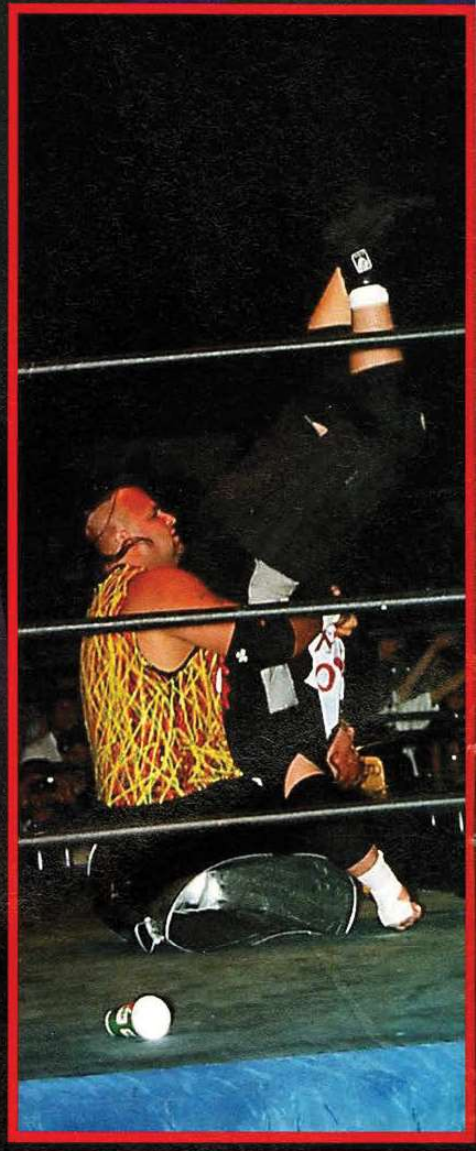


aren't Nasty Boys. We will go on a seek-and-destroy mission to stop those two. It's always one helluva fight when we're in the ring against them. We don't care if we win the match, just as long as we hurt them. If we see Public Enemy teeth laying in the middle of the ring, that's a victory, no matter what Nick Patrick, Randy Anderson or any referee says."

Countered Grunge, "The Nasty Boys are just like the hoola-hoop ... it was around for a long time and had its day, but it has been replaced. When you look at the four of us, we're all the same kind of guys: we each like a good fight. The thing is, Public Enemy is like your Timex ... we take a licking, but keep on ticking. The harder they hit us, the more determined we are to come back. You can knock us down, but we will get back on our feet."



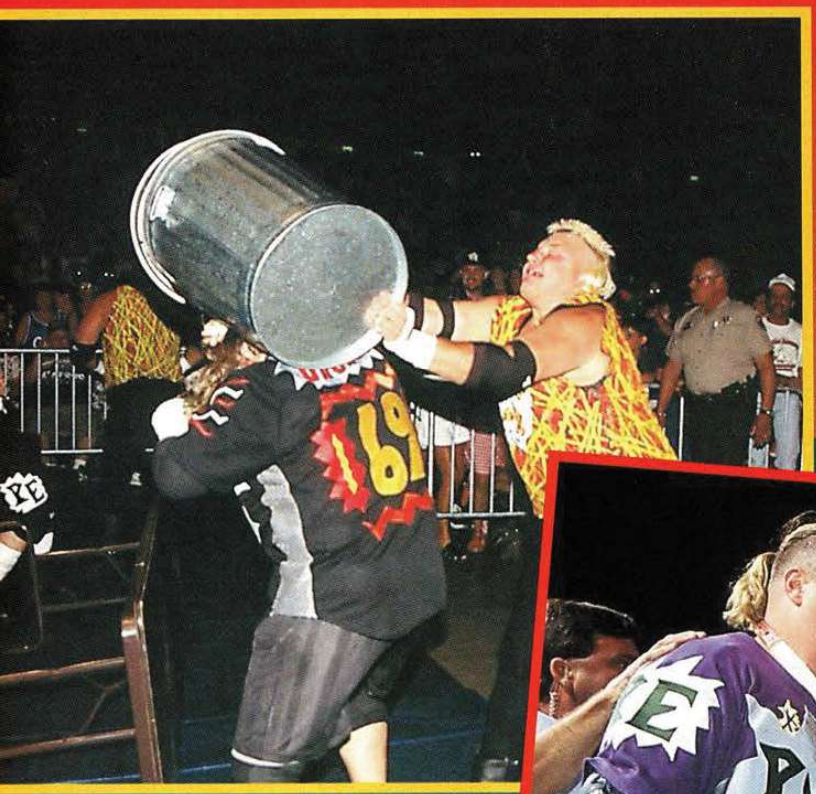




Nothing is off-limits to these four pitbulls. Tables, chairs, garbage cans, surfboards, ring bells ... you name it, they've used it. What's next? The van from the local Holiday Inn.

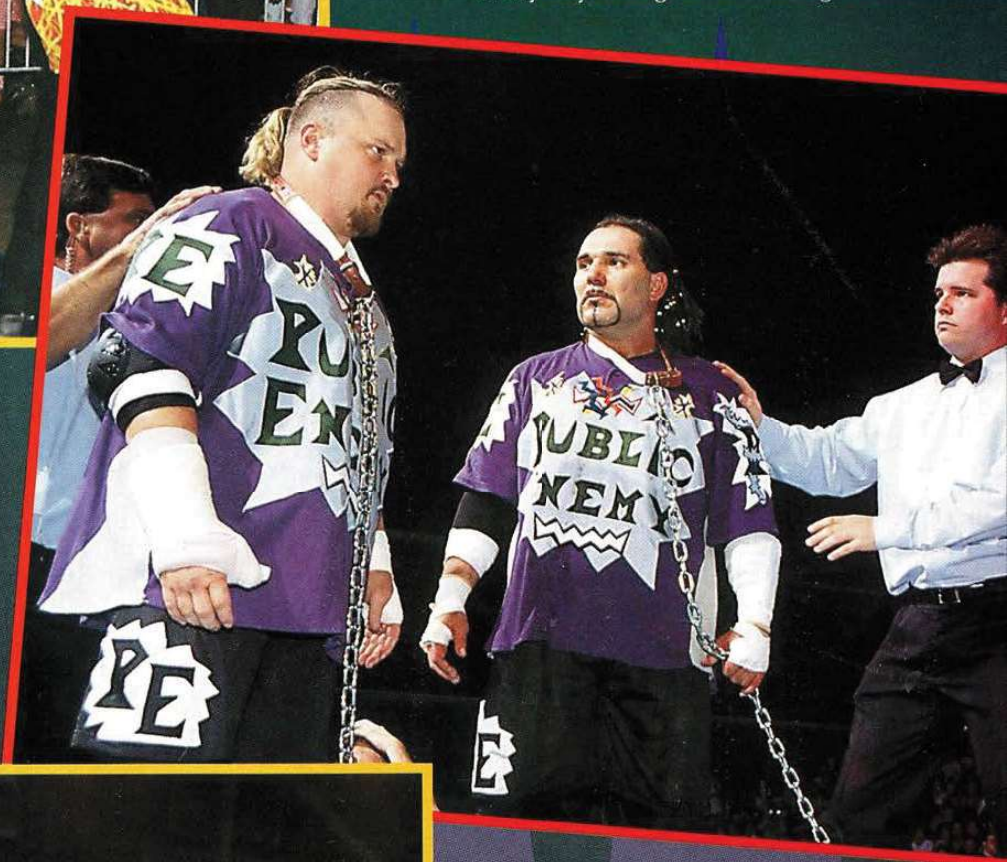
"This is a feud that's gone beyond everyone's wildest imagination. My fear is, it will be settled in some dark alley," said WCW broadcaster Lee Marshall.

Said Rocco, "We're not saying we don't have respect for them or that they aren't good wrestlers, but, The Nasty Boys have a defect: intelligence. That's what they lack. They're stupid. Very stupid. Johnny and I are like IBM computers; we're smart; we're educated ... we each graduated from the eighth-grade. So, we can out-think them every time."



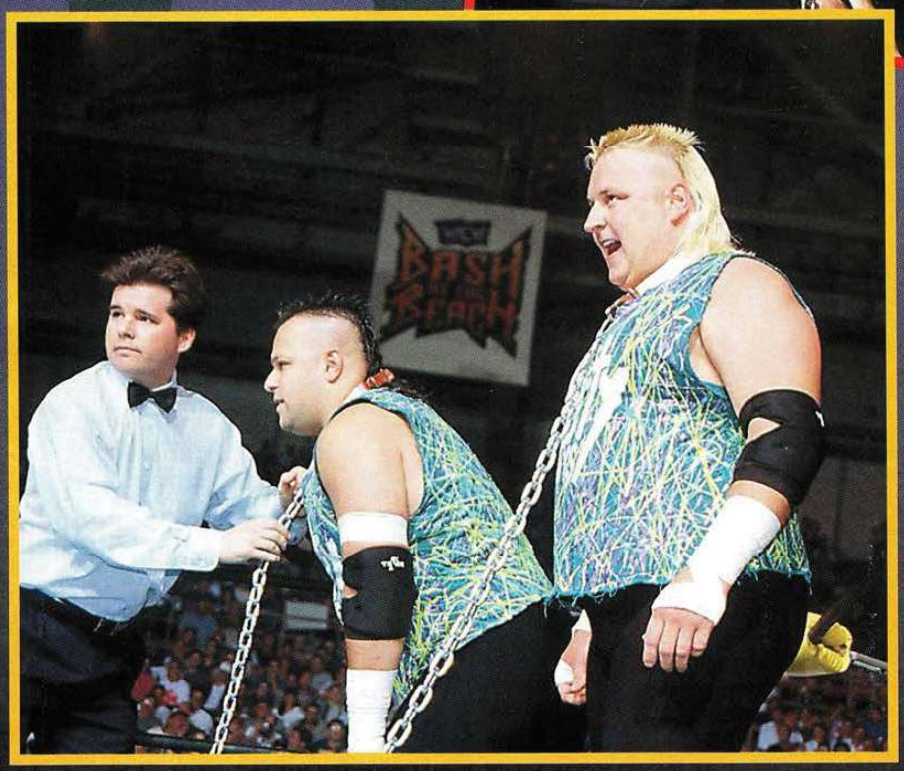
match, with no stipulations? Or maybe a barbed-wire match? Or a bed of nails match? Or fists-dipped-in-glue-then-glass match? Hearing these ideas brings a smile to all of their faces and, amazingly, this is the only time they all agree.

"We came to WCW for one reason: to face the toughest tag teams in this profession, and that definitely includes The Nasty Boys," Grunge said. "The Nasty Boys say they take things to the limit ... well, Public Enemy goes just a little bit further. The only time/way The Nasty Boys can get an advantage on



Countered Knobs, "Grunge and Rocco Rock ... gee, they certainly look like they went to Harvard. Puuulleease, give me a break! Anytime, anywhere ... we'll be there."

Can this out-of-control war be settled without one team leaving WCW? No way. Will this foursome ever co-exist in the same country, let alone the same organization? Not a chance. So what's the final battle? How about submission cage



Public Enemy is when they recruit a pro (athlete), as they've done (in the past). Then again, let's look at the athletes they've recruited: Dennis Rodman, that big baboon can't hurt us; he's just a basketball player, and that has to be the stupidest game around. Then there was Jim Kelly who, (during a summer-time match in upstate New York), smuggled a helmet into the ring for them ... and what's Jim Kelly most famous for? Losing Super Bowls with the Buffalo Bills."

Added Rocco Rock, "We don't claim to be the best wrestlers in this sport, nor do they. This is for bragging rights. On the street. With the hard-core fans. That's it. Who's the most violent, toughest team in the sport?"

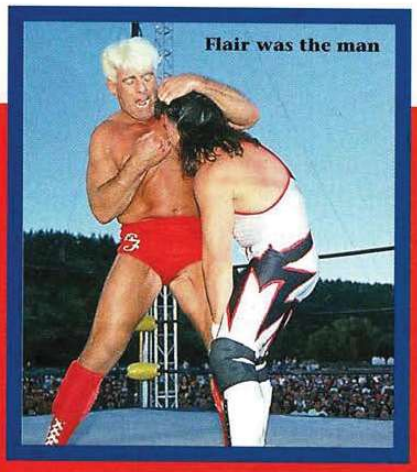
Chuck Tache, get ready ... this war is no where near over.

Male Shots

Sometimes The American Males are even too good-looking for our own well-being. And other times we're so good-looking we can help others' well-being. Read on and in this inaugural edition of Male Shots, the new hip column here in WCW Magazine, we'll explain.

The summer of '96 was a rather brutal one, that's for sure. Marcus had his face attacked and Scotty had his shoulder dislocated. Everyone takes their pot-shots at the Males. Why? One word: jealousy. There are a lot of people envious of the Males because, hey, we're good-looking guys. Consequently, people are often attacking our looks. Marcus, for instance, was attacked one July day away from the ring. It was a premeditated plan by some hoodlums hoping to make a name for themselves. Marcus was out that night by himself, a rarity in the life of The American Males, and that, naturally, is when it happened. He ended up with one nasty "shiner." There have been rumors that the NWO was involved with the attack, that their hands, er, fists met Marcus' face, but we don't know for sure. Scotty's left shoulder was injured in a freak accident during a match with the up-and-comers known as High Voltage, a team that is as awkward as any. Those two muscle-bound freaks are young and reckless in the ring and, unfortunately, Scotty had to pay for their inexperience.

Also this summer, we endured the wrath of The NWO during their Monday Nitro sabotage, the most violent event in professional wrestling history. Marcus was brutalized with a baseball bat. Kevin Nash and Scott Hall thought they were Frank Thomas and Ken Griffey, Jr., respectively. Marcus' legs were attacked, while Scotty had his back smashed with a 10-pound lighting fixture. They tried to knock us silly so we wouldn't think straight. Again, that was a case of others trying to stomp us before we grow into something very big.


Flair was the man

People want to know how we survived. well, that's obvious: we both have muscles, but we're not muscle-bound like, say, Maxx who just is not Male-material. Hey, the saying is, you drive for show and putt for dough, and that's quite true with The American Males. It's been about a year since we won the WCW Tag Team Championship. We're young, hungry and ready to re-claim the titles.

Some say The American Males should be out of action until Christmas, maybe longer. But we're risk-takers, and the first moment we think we're even 70 percent, we'll be there. The American Males have the right mental attitude for success, although it sure seems we also have bullseyes on our bodies. And, yeah, that's pretty good with the ladies ... it's amazing how often we initiate a Female Reaction just by walking into a room.

Tattoo. No, not that little dude from Fantasy Island. We're talking the real deal. We discussed our tattoos for some time before we actually got them, at a reputable place in Marietta, Ga. They are a statement that we want to make! Did we surprise people when we showed up at Nitro in Palmetto, Fla., on that late-August Monday. You bet, to say the least. Tattoos are a lasting thing, and that's part of the magic behind them. The American Males are unpredictable and irresistible in the ring, and just the same out of the ring. A tattoo is the last thing anyone in WCW thought Marcus Bagwell would get because he's so body-conscious it's ridiculous, but he wanted to do it. We'll never forget Lex Luger's facial expression when he saw Marcus' tattoo. The only thing he said was, 'Oh my gosh! What have you done?' Lex was expressionless, speechless. Sting also was amazed. And those are our pals, our training and traveling buds.

Each tattoo took about five hours, ending at 8 a.m. It was tattoos for breakfast, an all-night Male Affair!

Fans often ask what is the meaning behind our traditional pose: Marcus on one knee, Scotty behind. Well, that's simple: we pose because we can.

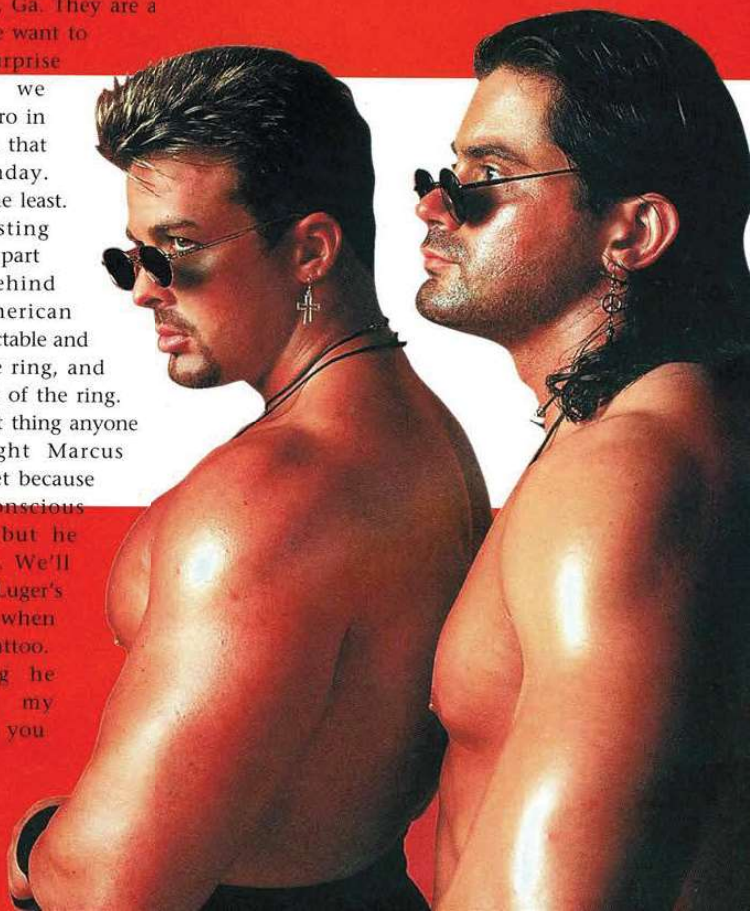
We are never ready to go out for a match until we are truly ready. We're spontaneous; we do everything at the very last moment. We operate on Male-Time, not what our Timex says.

Youth is king, and youth will continue to be king in WCW. So, with that in mind, what's up with the grey in Scott Hall's hair and the silver in Kevin Nash's beard. We can only wonder what kind of statement that is trying to make ... other than age.

Ric Flair has been The Man. He has long been the greatest in this sport. He's transcended time in this sport. He's styled and profiled for all these years. But The American Males are the Ric Flair of 1996, 97 and beyond. We will set the trend for how you can look — in the ring and out.

In closing, we want to let you know that, since we always get asked about our diet and workout methods, we may divulge a few secrets, a few trademarks if you want to become Male-ized. Stay tuned ... check us out next month; there may tips that help you become a true American Male.

And, remember, if you are looking for something you can parallel your life to, think of this ... whenever you look at yourself in the mirror, think of one thing: It ain't easy being cheesy!



Kick Wrestle & Roll WITH MADUSA

Well, what a month! Where does one start? First, congrats to The American Males on their new column. I know all of the female fans will love it, including some of our staff members. I know the girls in the office adore you guys! Personally, I think the column should be called 'Primp Style and Smile.' They are pretty boys, aren't they? Some women should take some pointers.

One thing I have to add is, we really missed Scotty of The American Males at Hog Wild in Sturgis, S.D. Oh, maybe it was best that he wasn't there ... those bikers would have eaten him alive since Scotty doesn't know how to ride a Harley-Davidson. I mean, c'mon ... isn't Scotty a stud?

The NWO ... it's nothing but a bunch of adult cut-throats wheeling and dealing. That's my take on The New World Odor. Next thing you know, The Odor will have a woman in there to do all of the dirty work. Imagine that. I can only think of one woman that could really deserve that spot: The Blonde From Hell, Debra McMichael. After all, she's the one who calls it like it is (so she claims), and the one with the genuine smile (uh-hum).

Then again, we have Miss Elizabeth, or Gizzard as her trusting friends call her. I think you can trust her, but never say anything bad about her friends because she will front you in the most humiliating situations.

Woman? Now here is a confusing character. We see a lot of her on television. Why? I'm not quite sure ... I think she is taking more to the Committee than just her credentials.

Oh, yeah, we also have Cutie-pie Kimberly, or is it Miss Diamond Doll, or Miss Booty Babe ... whatever, she's a born beauty.

Let's talk about the leader of The Odor: 'Hollywood' Hulk Hogan. He speaks all of the time. He is in front all of the time. He dictates all of the time. He says "Jump;" Scott Hall and Kevin Nash say "How high." Hall and Nash, The Poutsiders. They were on top of the world elsewhere, but it was getting too easy. The truth was right there in front of them. Cheap minds. Cheap help and cheap trust. I guess the lesson from this is: keep your friends close and your enemies closer. After all, remember, I came from the same place, so I know what makes all snakes bite and chameleons change color. I have seen hints and gestures for me to reunite, damn guys read my hand!! I do not need you, or Hogan!! Remember, I know all your tricks: body language and the verbal garbage.

So, if anyone needs the truth, it is you two Poutsiders. Don't you get it? Hogan is out for Hogan and, sooner or later, you will be out wondering what happened, once again.

Let's see, what was that clique called? The one that would never die.

Now something else: WCW's NASCAR. Our car has been doing absolutely wonderful on the Busch Grand National Series. Elliott Sadler is the driver. He's 21, a perfect gentleman with a great personality. I have been to quite a few races, and am hooked!

The most exciting race I have attended was in Bristol, Tenn. The race was hard, fast and LOUD!! And, yes, there was a crash, though that's not exciting for the driver. God bless he didn't get hurt.

You cannot help but love the wrecks, other than when a tire came flying off, broke the axle and missed our heads by inches! I was like, 'Wow, this only happens on TV.'

By the way, Sting, I think I look better in the fire-suit than you.

I've been looking like a blue M&M waiting for this to happen and, lo and behold, it is here ... the Japanese girls and the WCW Women's World Championship, here to stay! Yippee!! Starting in late-October.

Bobby Heenan, I think your days are numbered. Your broadcasting is bad and your wit is awful.

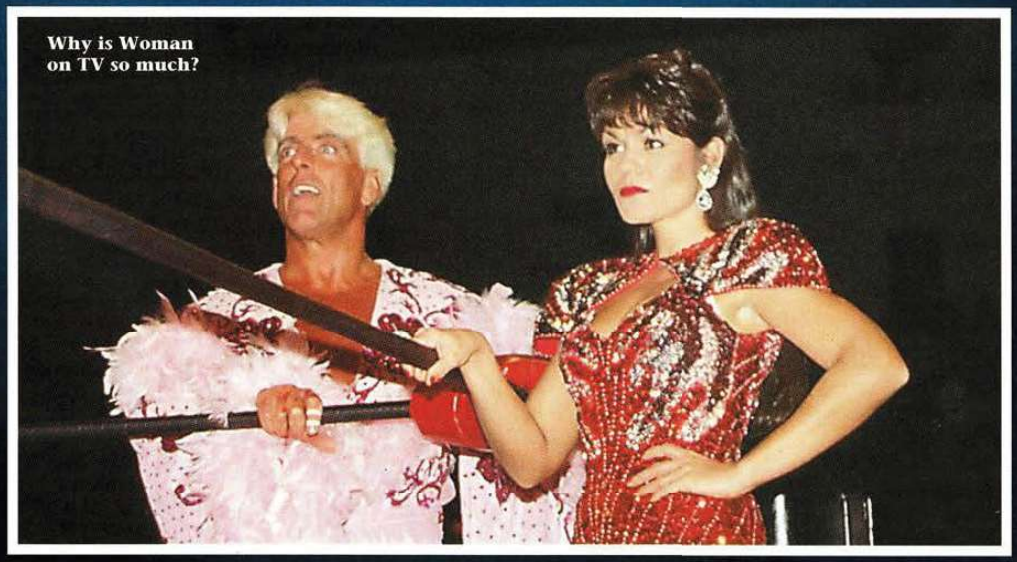
Well, see you next month with a great SCOOP.

Who loves ya,baby?

Madusa.

Ciao!

Madusa

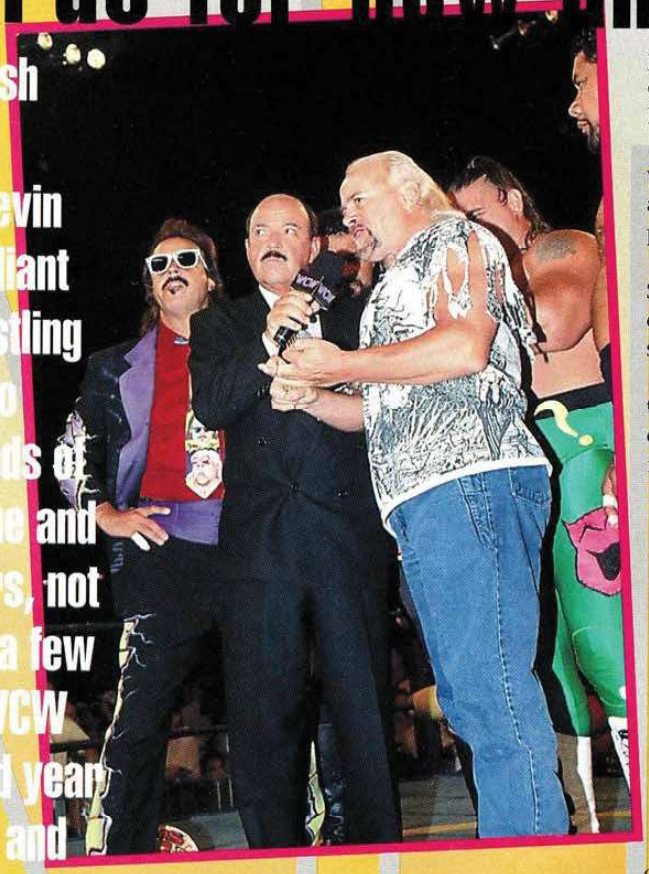


Why is Woman on TV so much?

EVOLUTION

Why WCW is setting the standards for now and forever

Behind the devilish in-ring mind of "Taskmaster" Kevin Sullivan is a brilliant out-of-ring wrestling veteran, one who has seen hundreds of competitors come and go over the years, not to mention quite a few companies. As WCW begins its second year of Monday Nitro and blazes a path toward the 21st Century, WCW Magazine sat down with Sullivan for a rare, candid interview about the sport of professional wrestling. Make that the business of professional wrestling.



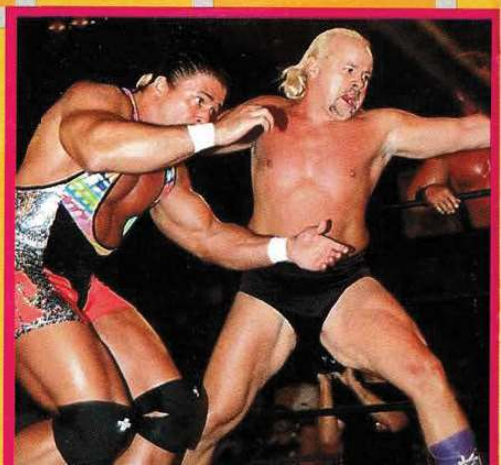
Friend and foe alike had an ear-to-ear smile August 26 when it was announced during TV tapings at Disney/MGM Studios in Orlando that, the previous night, WCW Monday Nitro peaked at an amazing 4.8 during the second hour (9-10 p.m. ET) on the overnight Nielsen ratings. There was reason to celebrate; it was the highest number WCW had ever scored for a non-special wrestling show (like a Clash of the Champions) dating back to the mid-1980s.

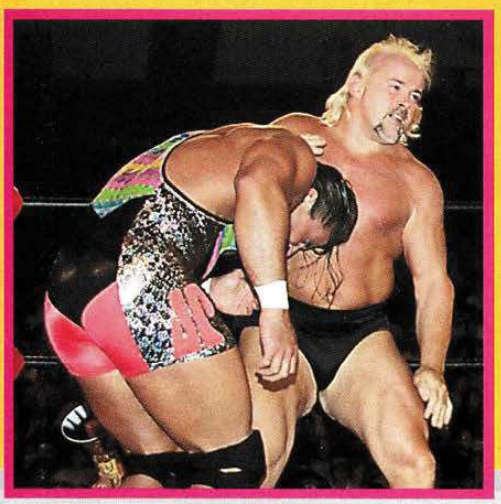
"Here at WCW, knowing full-well that our competitor also is usually (airing a program, although not on these two occasions) on the same night, know that we have to produce the best television show that is possible. And I think it's pretty obvious that we have been doing that. I'm not trying to belittle their product ... we just offer a different product, what I think, and what the viewers apparently think as well, is a better product," Kevin Sullivan said.

The evidence seems to back up Sullivan's theory as WCW hasn't come second in the ratings for quite some time.

"If you don't change with the times, you die; that's how it goes with everything in this world. Everything is evolution. Everything has to evolve, or it dies. Take, for instance, the dinosaur. They didn't change, and they didn't survive. I have watched our competitor's program on occassion and while I don't like to knock anyone because I am not a negative person, I see their product as something very similar to what they produced in the 1980s. And this is not the 1980s — this is 1996, moving in on 1997."

"The 1980s were a different time in this country. They were a time of self-indulgence, grandeur and immediate satisfaction. Times now are tougher; the economy is different; the tax structure is different. People who work, they are less willing to spend, say, $100 than they were in the 1980s.





"And that obviously has a direct impact on pro wrestling."

One ratings-point represents 664,770 homes that are watching the show. Hence, the late-August edition of Nitro attracted well over 3-million viewers. And the following week, Sept. 2, when Monday Night Football was live (on ABC-TV) with its season-opening match-up of the defending Super Bowl Champions visiting the Chicago Bears, Nitro again averaged a 4.3 rating.

"In less than a year, we have defeated them (the WWF) pretty soundly, and trounced them recently. And, remember, they had a nine-year start," Sullivan said of the Monday night wars. "What we've done, some say, shouldn't have happened; it's kind of like a new show beating Seinfeld after two months."

So why has it happened?

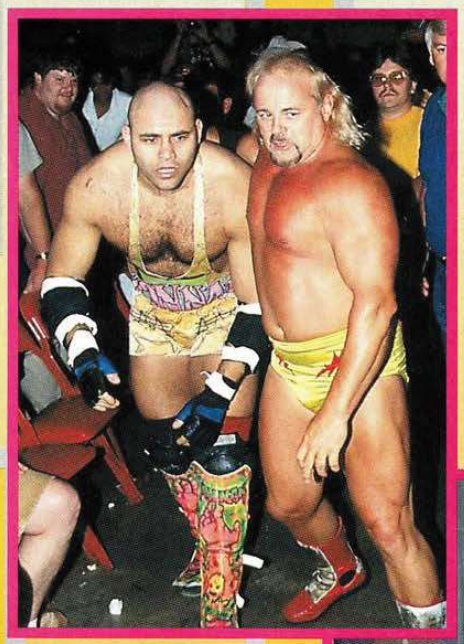
"WCW has the best talent in the world, plain and simple," Sullivan said without hesitation. "It comes down to talent, and we've got it."

"You could be the best manager in baseball history, but, if you don't have talent, you aren't going to win. Conversely, you could be the worst manager in baseball history, but, if you had Ted Williams as you left fielder, Willie Mays in center, Roger Maris in right, Yogi Berra as the catcher, Brooks Robinson at third base, Cal Ripken, Jr., at shortstop, Nellie Fox at second, Jimmie Foxx at first base, and Bob Gibson and Sandy Koufax as your top two pitchers ... you're bound to win a lot of games."

With Nitro, WCW truly has vaulted pro wrestling into a major TV force. Pro wrestling is no longer small regional promotion, as it was pre-1980s. Nor is pro wrestling a WWF-dominated sport. WCW is now the focal point of this global sport, and the Atlanta-based company certainly has revived the dip in the sport that it endured in the late-1980s/early-1990s.

"I was here from the inception of WCW, when it was bought out by Ted Turner," said Sullivan. "I don't want this to sound like a brown-nose talking, but, Eric Bischoff has come in here with exciting ideas, willing to take chances, willing to put together the Oakland Raiders and he's been willing to let a real renegade carry the ball. Before Eric, we saw a whole slew of people who hadn't spent 20 minutes in the wrestling business, yet thought they knew everything. Eric is a man of his word, his hand-shake is his bond. And I can't tell you how big that is in a company filled with big egos."

"Wrestling fans want to be entertained, not just by some guy in a costume because he has to (in that costume). WCW has wrestlers; that's the difference between us and the competition."



True wrestlers like Eddie Guerrero, Chris Benoit, Rey Mysterio, Jr., Dean Malenko and Alex Wright, among others. And also a host of mega-stars like Sting, Lex Luger, Ric Flair and "Macho Man" Randy Savage.

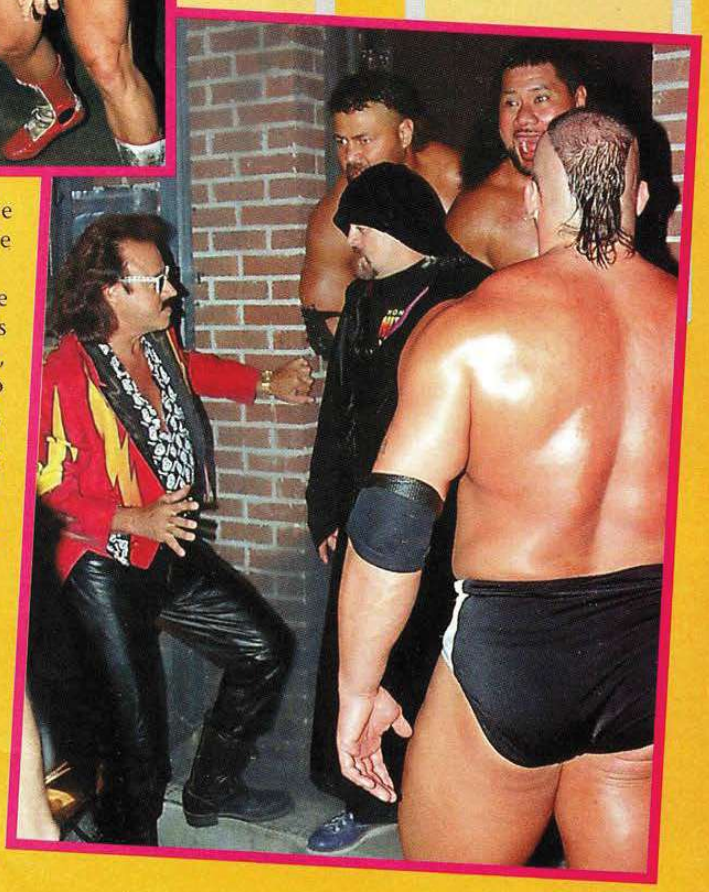
"Nitro started out as a one hour, then jumped to two hours — and everyone told us it would never work," Sullivan said, "but this is just the tip of the iceberg."

"Halloween Havoc might be the greatest pay-per-view in professional wrestling history, and that's not just hype. Sure, there will be critics who say Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage are too old, but let's face it, Hogan and Savage, whether you like them or their styles, are legends. It's like Muhammad Ali-Joe Frazier or the current clamor to see George Foreman face Larry Holmes."

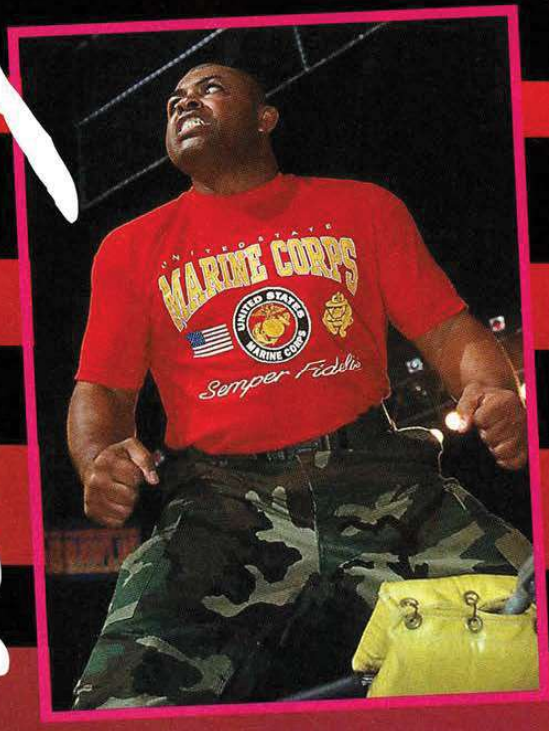
Sullivan, a true leader in this industry, added: "The consumer is very aware of the product it is watching these days, and we've adjusted accordingly. I don't think anyone believes that, when Sting was born, his mother named him Sting. I've heard people mention his name other than Sting. I've heard 'Hollywood' Hulk Hogan's real name mentioned before. Some people came from the competition with names that were given to them, and are now using their real names — even though they are not affiliated with WCW. This is something that never would have happened in the past in pro wrestling."

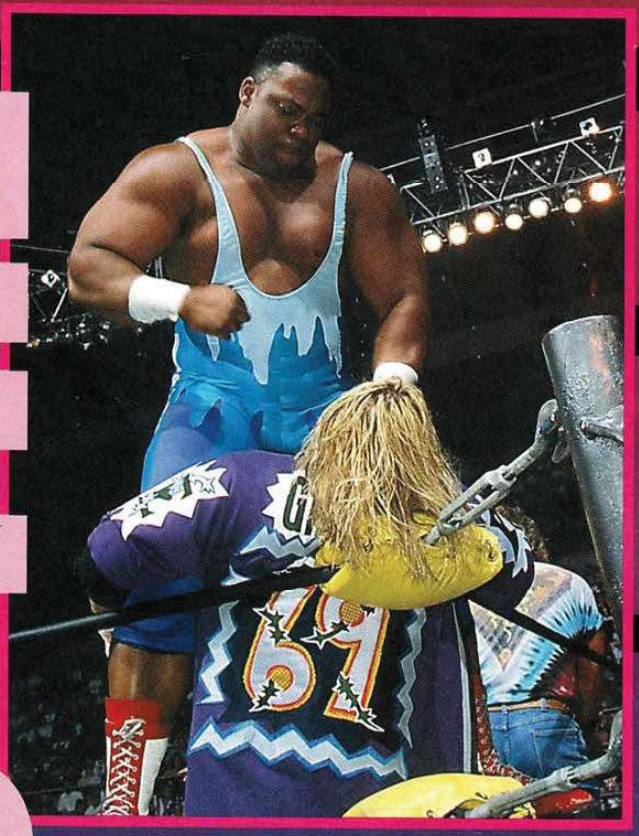
WCW's first Nitro in September attracted an amazing 6.9 share during the first hour, then a 7.0 during the second hour, which represents the total percent of TV sets in use at that time.

"Everyone likes a joke as long as they are a part of it ... I think our competitor doesn't realize that," Sullivan said in closing.



IS THE LOUNGE





The odds, some say, are against them. Against each of them: Sgt. Craig "Pitbull" Pittman, Ice Train and now Jim Powers. Will they ever win? Can they win? Can they even survive the rigors of WCW, a place where an abundance of muscles doesn't necessarily equal an abundance of W's?

"Yes. Yes. Yes. Without question," says Teddy Long, the manager for this trio of potential.

"With three guys like that, you can't do anything but go to the top," Long said. "I don't look at them as underdogs. I look at them as I look at myself: I came from nothing and have made a mark in this sport. And each of my guys can do the same."

Long's entourage certainly would hold its own in a tug-of-war; however, that's child's-play compared to the ring-wars of WCW, a place where attacks come from internal and external forces.

"Teddy Long is a great motivator. If anyone can get you to succeed, it's Teddy Long," said former wrestler Terry Taylor.

Long has been a manager of champions several times, from Doom (Butch Reed and Ron Simmons) to Marcus Bagwell and 2 Cold Scorpio, a team that captured gold from The Nasty Boys a week into Long's tutelage. Long also has managed Norman The Lunatic, The Skyscrapers (Sid Vicious and Danny Spivey), One Man Gang, Kevin Sullivan and Johnny B. Badd.

"I've only been in this business for four-and-a-half years, and am growing every day. In four- or five-years, I am really going to be someone to deal with in WCW. Teddy Long will be the one who helps me get to that 'next level'," said Ice Train, a powerhouse who previously teamed with Scott 'Flash' Norton (as Fire & Ice). "Teddy offers guidance when I'm lost; he calms me down during matches. Sometimes excitement can defeat me in the ring as well as an opponent; that's where Teddy comes into the picture."

Ice Train, a former football player at perennial college powerhouse Michigan, went one-on-one with his former partner, Norton, at Fall Brawl. In a Submission Match. Ice Train, he of charisma and power, plans to continue along the singles path.

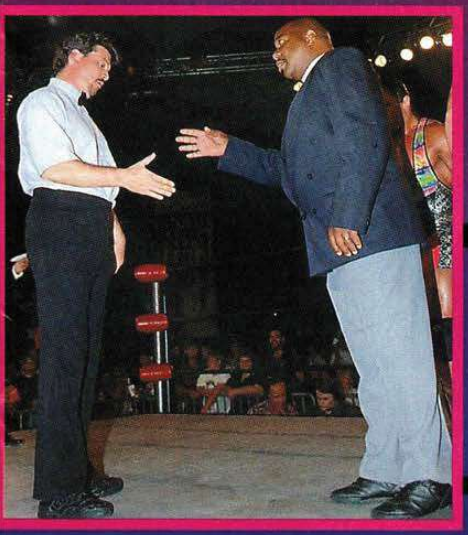
"Ice Train was previously in WCW, then went to Germany; he learned a lot over there, but their style is quite different from ours," Long said. "I'm glad he had that experience and feel all (of) my wrestlers should get as wide-ranging experience as they can. You should learn everyone's style; that way, whoever you step in the ring against, you're prepared."

"Think about it this way ... if there's a Mexican wrestler going against an American wrestler, and the Mexican wrestler has wrestled Americans before, but not vice versa, then the Mexican has the advantage because he knows something that the American does not know."

Pittman and Powers are just as powerful as the gargantuan Ice Train, but they too have yet to attain main event status in this sport. Pittman, in the pro ranks, has yet to equal his amateur success. Powers, meanwhile, has lingered in pro wrestling anonymity, other than a brief stint with Paul Roma as The Young Stallions, for, oh, about 10 years. But Long is still optimistic about the pair.

"Sgt. Pittman is a five-time amateur champion with an extensive Marine background," Long began, "Sgt. Pittman had a load of wrestling background before he even got to WCW, then worked out more at the Power Plant. Pittman's progress moving to the top has been a little slow, maybe just because the pro style is a lot different than the collegiate style. He's had to adapt, but is coming along great. I'm at the Power Plant almost every day with him, telling him what to do, how to do it, etc. I try to look out for a lot of things that he might not know, if only from his inexperience in the sport and my longevity."

"Jim Powers is a guy who I watched for many, many years in another organization. I liked him then; I liked his style. When he came here, to WCW, I took it upon myself to go to the promoters to say, 'Hey, this is a kid we need to hire because I think he would be a big asset to this company.' They listened, and I'm glad. Jim Powers has ability, credibility and a great attitude. There's nothing that you can ask him to do that he won't do. I'm just happy that the guy wanted to accept me to be his manager, to guide him in the right direction."



And Long certainly is one to know 'The Right Direction.' If only because he's been down 'The Crooked Path.'

Long started in pro wrestling by putting up and taking down the ring, earning "absolutely no money," just doing it because "I wanted to make it in this business." It was a slow road to success for Long who admits he was a "bad kid," one filled with a lot of negative things involved in his life — until he turned to God for answers. "God brought me around; I was able to come to my senses, get my head on right and start doing positive things, like helping young kids."

But before turning to religion, Long was a WCW referee. A good one. At least until dirty money and evil forces came his way. Long was approached by Kevin Sullivan and the late "Hotstuff" Eddie Gilbert to "throw" matches. And Long did just that.

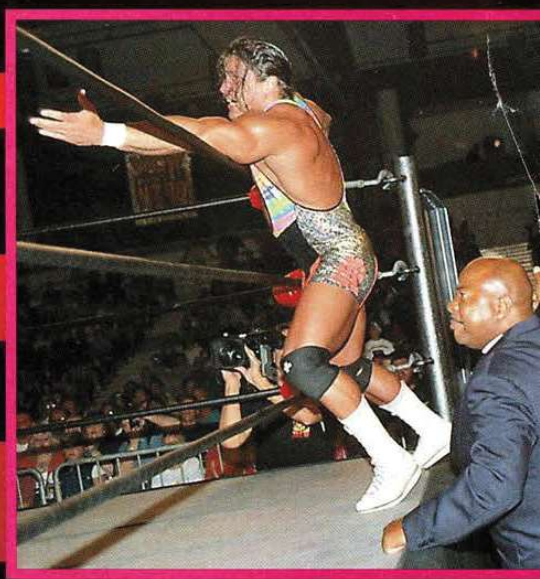
"I think they took advantage of me because they knew that I wanted to live the good life," Long reflects. "I thought I was doing the right thing by turning my back on the fans, especially when I cashed those big fat paychecks and drove around in the big fat limo."

But Long was eventually fired as a referee by the WCW Board of Directors. He then became a manager for some of the most menacing forces in WCW.

"Even as I was guiding those bad guys, and I was a bad guy myself, kids always wanted my autograph ... I couldn't understand that. And as I started thinking about it, I eventually realized that maybe I was in the wrong role," Long said.

So Long left the sport, turned to God and has since returned with a keen eye for the straight-and-narrow.

"I don't like the term role-model because, to be a role-model, you have to be like me ... I don't want kids to be like me; I want them to be better than me," Long said. "I'm a mentor, one who sets an example for the young kids."



Long's message these days is simple and straight-forward: stay drug-free, stay in school and get an education, and put God first.

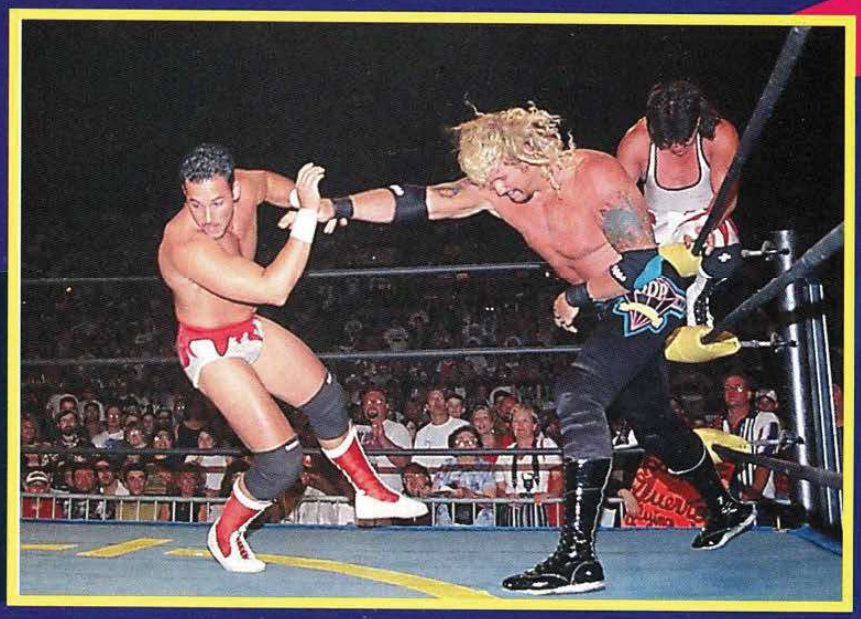
So, Teddy, what about the recent actions of referee Nick Patrick?

"The same thing that's happened to Nick Patrick happened to me ... money, cars, homes," Long began, "To this day, I regret selling out. One of the biggest mistakes I ever made was turning my back on the fans, the people who pay my salary."

"I still believe Nick Patrick can change and become the fine official that he once was. I'm hoping, in the long-run, that he will turn around. And I'm not afraid to sit down and talk with Nick Patrick. There's still hope for him, just as there is for Hulk Hogan."

FAMILY TRADITION

In the space of one year Eddie Guerrero has established himself as one of WCW's premier and most popular athletes. He has ensured the continuance of the Guerrero legend. Now he has been joined by his nephew, Chavo Jr., the legend is set to continue onwards and upwards.



Gory Guerrero was a wrestling promoter in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, some 20 years ago and, to entertain the crowd during intermissions, he called upon two pint-sized family members: Eddie, then 6; and Chavo Jr., then 3. The youngsters jumped in the ring and wrestled to the best of their ability. It was a hilarious scene, a sideshow that the fans loved. So much that they rarely left their seats. They were hooked on these adorable wrestling wanna-bes.

Well, Eddie and Chavo Jr., are now the real thing, battling it out in the ever-crazy wild world of WCW.

Gory, no doubt, is smiling.

"I love it here in WCW. It's been incredible. This is the best wrestling organization I have ever worked for, even though ... I've only worked for a couple," said the younger Guerrero, smiling. He made his WCW debut this summer. "The competition is tremendous. The work-ethic and talent of the wrestlers is tremendous. The matches are great."

Chavito, as he is known among his fellow wrestlers or Vito to his family, is now 25 an up-and-coming star who already has shown the potential that preceded him: his father, Chavo; and uncles Eddie, Hector and Mando. And, of course, the late, great Gory, the Hulk Hogan of his day. Chavito has been in there with Ric Flair ("that was like a dream come true, although I was so nervous") and, at Fall Brawl, Diamond Dallas Page, among others.

"During my career, I wrestled most of the Guerreros," recalls Terry Taylor, now a WCW front-office executive, "and none of them were very big, but they all were very good."

"Chavo Jr., has a huge heart and fearlessness that will carry him far. Jumping into the air and landing on someone 20 feet away ... that takes some guts. And Chavo certainly has guts."

Chavito has been a pro for only two years, but has extensive amateur experience. He was a league champion during the late-1980s in the Garden Grove (CA) School District. He graduated from Los Amigos High School in 1988, then, the following year, coached

at the school with his father. He attended Orange Coast College for three years, but left before receiving his degree to follow his wrestling dream.

"My dad kind of steered me (away) from (becoming) a professional wrestler because it is a very hard life. But, he always told me that, if I did want to become a wrestler, he would help, support me every way possible," Guerrero said. "I want to eventually receive my college degree, but, while in school, I couldn't keep my mind off wrestling."

Not surprising. Just consider some of his childhood exploits:

At Gory's home in El Paso, Texas, there was a wrestling ring in the backyard, and Chavito and Eddie often took off the third rope and had imaginary matches.

Growing up, Chavito often had his cousins, Rebecca and Phyllis, act as the crowd for "matches" against Eddie.

When Chavo was involved in a bitter feud with Rowdy Roddy Piper, he had a "Hair Match" that, when he won, allowed him to shave Piper's head. So what did Chavito do? He gave his younger sister, Victoria, an impromptu trim.

When Chavo went into a match with, say, a cut on his forehead, Chavito would have his forehead bandaged.

"I've always wanted to be like my dad. I have always tried to emulate him," Chavito said. The elder Guerrero, now 48 and retired from active wrestling, is teaching and coaching at a junior high school in El Paso.

"I think my dad is very proud, of me and Eddie. He likes to hear about the wrestlers, like when, say, Randy Savage or Dick Slater tells me to say 'Hello' to him. He loves that because he still feels like he's one of the boys, even though he's been out of the sport for a little bit."

"I'm sure my grandfather also is very proud. He'd be ecstatic, thrilled to see both of doing as well as we are. He lived and died wrestling."

In contrast to Chavito and Eddie, Gory often was one of the most hated wrestlers in the sport. Fans, believe it or not, shot at him in the ring, and Gory was never afraid to challenge a heckler. Even if it meant stopping a match for a moment to hit a fan in the front row. Gory's illustrious career — which included matches against such greats as Lou Thesz, Gorgeous George, Dory Funk, Sr., and Bob Orton, Sr., among others — culminated with induction into the Boxing/Wrestling Hall of Fame in Mexico in 1988.

"Being in WCW is like a football player making it to the NFL," Chavito said. "I'm learning every time I'm in that ring. Win or lose. It's great. Especially with the competition I'm in there with."

"If anyone knows anything about the Guerreros, they know that we all are mat wrestlers, coupled with some high-flying mixed in. Eddie has added a lot of acrobatics, and I'm trying to do the same."

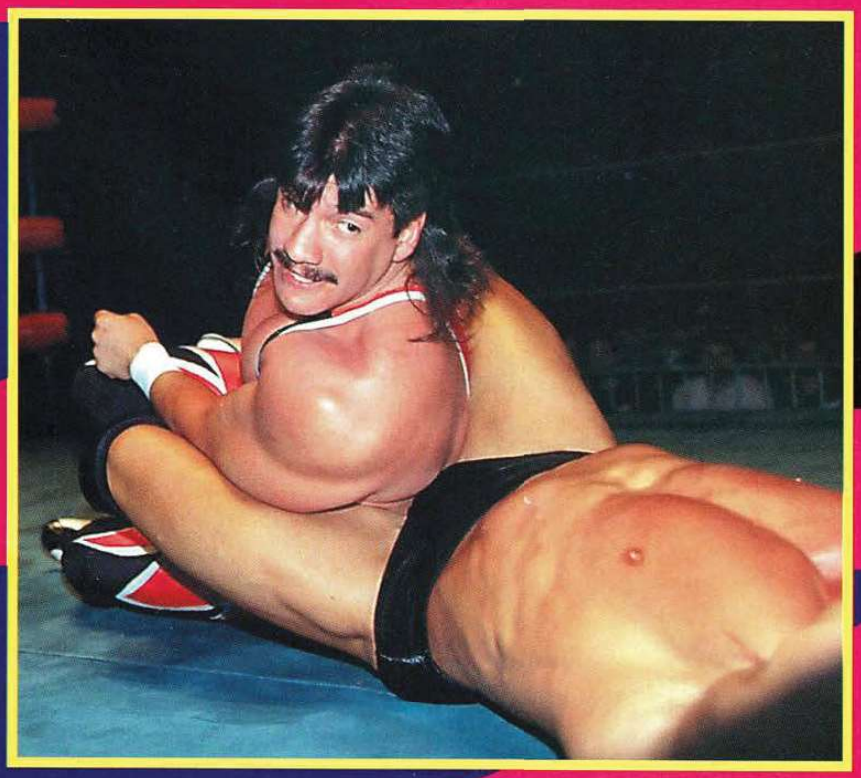
Is a Guerrero tag team imminent?

Chavito's ear-to-ear smile gives away his answer.

"Eddie has helped me tremendously ... he's one of my idols," Chavito said. "Even though he's my uncle, we're more like brothers. He's the big brother I never had, and I'm the little brother he never had. We did everything together as kids, from wrestling to playing in the ditch behind my grandmother's house, pretending we were being chased by alligators."

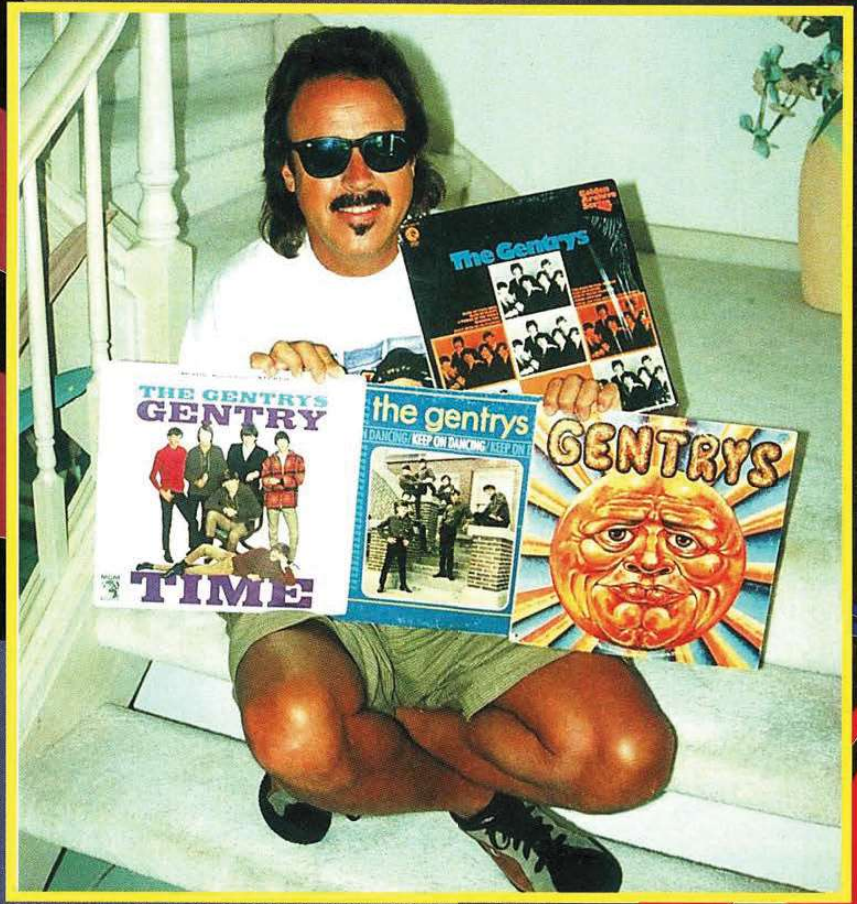
"Eddie is so smooth, so good in the ring. I love watching him."

Said Eddie, or Ewis as he is known to family members, "We've always talked about being the tag team champions of the world ... hopefully some day that will come true. I'm very excited that he's here in WCW. For being a rookie, I think he's doing great. With the Lord's will, I know he will always be safe; that's most important. I'll always be there to watch his back, and I know he'll be there to watch mine."



Away from THE RING

At his home in Florida, Jimmy Hart collects baseball cards. Not to mention basketball, football and hockey relics. He has an autograph collection that numbers in the thousands and includes major sports stars from every arena. He also has memorabilia that looks, rightfully so, like it's straight from a team's locker room.



Hart, you see, is a true collector, one who world-renowned collector Barry Halper would be proud to know — not just the high-pitched manager of World Championship Wrestling (WCW) fame and fortune.

"I've always loved baseball, basketball and football having played all three sports," at Treadwell High School in Memphis (the same high school as Anfernee "Penny" Hardaway) during the 1960s, Hart said. "I was a wingback who was seventh in the city in pass receiving in 1963. I was a second baseman on the baseball team and a guard on the basketball team."

"That's when I got hooked on sports and what led me to collecting sports memorabilia."

Since, Hart has built one incredible collection, which includes cards from the early 1900s. His collection includes T206 cards of Cy Young and Walter Johnson, a 1921 Babe Ruth, a 1933 Roger Hornsby, a 1934 Lou Gehrig and a set of 1938 Churchman Cigarette boxing cards. Plus, he has saved a 1948 Stan Musial, a 1950 Yogi Berra, a 1952 Roy Campanella, 1953 Mickey Mantle and a 1971 Pete Maravich. In addition, Hart has a 1981 Joe Montana, a 1984 Reggie White (USFL) and a 1986 Charles Barkley, among others.

"I've always bought a bunch of old cards, even commons," Hart said. "I never bought things for the investment aspect of collecting. I just bought them because I liked the card, or I liked the player. I think with my heart, not with my head, when I buy cards. For instance, Jose Canseco. I bought a bunch of his rookie cards, just because I've always liked him. I always look to buy the guys who I liked when I was growing up, like Pete Maravich."

Hart has cards in mint- and in poor-condition. And he likes them all just the same.

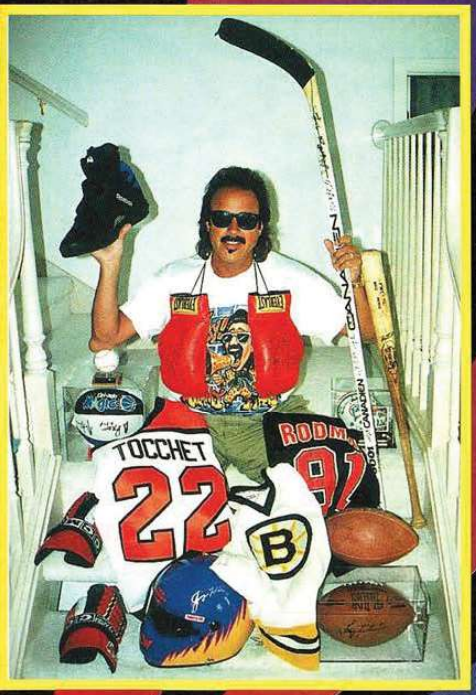
"During the 1980s, I did a lot of traveling, to cities like Boston, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Winnipeg, Toronto, etc.," Hart began, "and at the arenas where we were wrestling, I'd usually befriend the equipment manager who often was a wrestling fan. Consequently, we'd always make trades, like a wrestler's autograph for an autographed item from some of the local stars."

Hart, for instance, acquired a Mario Lemieux-signed stick that way. And as the manager for wrestling's original Hart Foundation (Bret "Hit Man" Hart and Jim "The Anvil" Neidhart), he often swapped Hart Foundation-signed photos. Or, later in his career, Hulk Hogan-signed head-bands.

"The thing I usually do when I get to a city, then and now, is: ask the local (wrestling) promoter where some of the area card shops are. Then, during the days, while the wrestlers are working out at the gym, or just hanging out in their (hotel) rooms, I'd go to the shops, to see what I could get. I was able to get a lot of stuff, stuff that normally you'd have to pay a pretty penny for."

"The people at card shops always seem to be wrestling fans, so I'd always hear stories along the lines of, 'Ya know, when I was a kid, I used to watch Gorgeous George or Ed "The Strangler" Lewis,' They always seem to appreciate what I am doing now, and that means a lot. Plus, the people in card shops always ask for my autograph, and it's an honor to be asked (to sign). Overall I'd have to say that the (shop owners) are pretty surprised to see me in their shop."

Hart even went to antique shops in Europe in search of sports memorabilia. "I could never find card



shops overseas," he said. One time in London, Hart snagged some boxing cards which now rank among his favorite collectibles.

"Being in the wrestling business certainly has helped," when it comes to negotiating a price," Hart said, "because it seems everyone is a wrestling fan."

Hart's collection also includes several game-worn uniforms, including his personal favorite: from the 1986 Memphis Chicks, the year Bo Jackson played there. Particularly because it is Hart's former hometown. Hart, in addition, has autographed baseballs from Hall of Famers Mickey Mantle, Yogi Berra, Bob Feller and Luke Appling, among others.

"Meeting Mickey Mantle was very exciting, something I'll never forget," said Hart, who has a signed football from Troy Aikman football, numerous Deion Sanders-signed items, relics from Shaquille O'Neal and souvenirs from George Foreman.

"A couple of years ago, when I was managing Hulk Hogan, I went with The Hulkster to Shaq's home. At Shaq's home is a Hulk jersey and a magazine with me and The Hulkster on the cover, signed to Shaq. It's hanging on Shaq's wall; I think that's pretty special."

Hart's collection includes unopened packs from 1960-80. Of all major sports. His older son (Jimmy, Jr.) is quick to mention, from memory, which rookie cards "might" be in each pack. The elder Hart smiles.

"Some of my favorite (collectibles) are of Mickey Mantle, Roger Maris, Yogi Berra and Moose Skowron ... because I have been a long-time New York Yankees fan," said Hart, who participates in George Steinbrenner's annual Christmas-time gala for children. "I also like older basketball, football and baseball cards, and — believe it or not — collecting Wheaties boxes. Basically, I like anything from my era, anything I grew up with back in the 1950s and 1960s. I guess I'm kind of a nostalgic person. I don't really care too much for the new stuff because they flood the market with that stuff."

Hart is a willing signer by mail, particularly because "I wouldn't mind standing in line (for an autograph) from some of the superstars of yesteryear." And, he has even asked for autographs on airplanes.

"I can see a guy who played basketball, football, hockey or baseball years ago charging for their autograph, mainly when you look at what they earned as compared with today's athletes' (salaries)," Hart said. "I think the retired players should have a right to charge (for their autograph) because, remember, you don't have to get the player's signature at a show — you can just go (to the show) and see the person."

"Sure, other people might see it from a different perspective, but, hey, maybe that's the only way a person can make money ... by signing his name. Charging for autographs is a touchy situation, that's for sure."

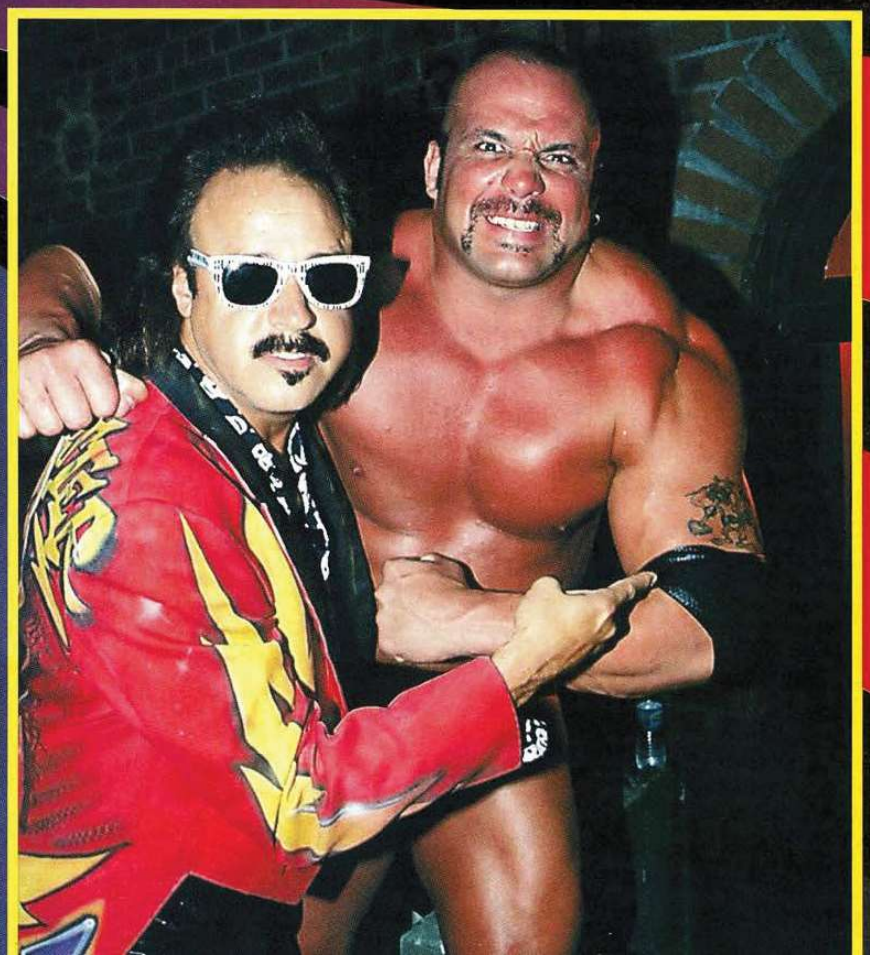
"Today's athletes, when they charge these high prices for their signatures at card shows ... I think that's ridiculous."

Hart, a father of two (Jimmy Jr., and Jerry), added, "If your kid is working and wants to spend his earnings on trading cards, or to buy an autograph, I don't think parents should be upset ... it's a lot better than wanting to spend the money on a bag of dope."

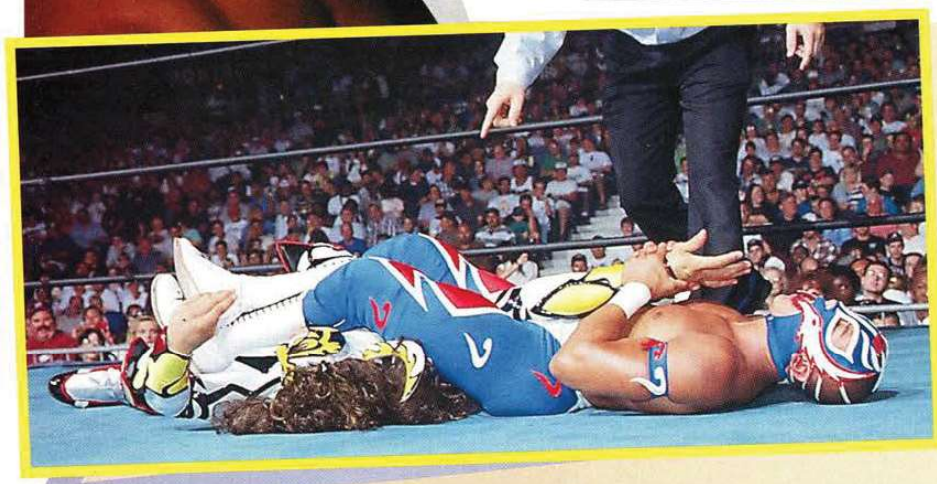
Hart's collection includes limited wrestling memorabilia. He has Gorgeous George cards ("I really love those") and cards of Dory Funk, Sr., and Lou Thesz, among others. He also has wrestling albums, framed plaques from videos, life-size statues of Hulk Hogan, Andre The Giant-signed souvenirs, select wrestling programs and countless posters from European wrestling tours.

"I'm really glad I've kept a lot of my memorabilia over the years," he said. "The one wrestling-related item that I don't have which I now wish I did is: signed pictures of everyone I ever managed. The one sports-related item that I don't have which I wish I had is: something signed by Michael Jordan, like a game-worn jersey or shoe."

The most sought-after Hart-related relic is the megaphones he uses to "encourage" his wrestlers. Hart has about 30 different per year and most, when he's done with them, are donated to charity for auctions. The top prize paid for a Hart megaphone: $470. Hart's colorful outfits, his version of game-worn equipment, also is regularly donated to charities, such as the Make A Wish Foundation.



COLLISION



The feud that lingers between Dean Malenko and Rey Mysterio, Jr., is not filled with hatred. It's no where near the Hulk Hogan-Randy Savage war. Not even close. Those two mega powers have pure disdain for one another and will settle their differences — or at least try to — on Oct. 27, in the main event of Halloween Havoc, live from the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas, Nev. On that same card, Malenko and Mysterio will match wits. The mat specialist meets the high-flyer. Malenko vs. Mysterio has Match of the Year potential.

"This match is a great contrast in styles," Malenko says in the locker room at Disney/MGM Studio, his face as intense as ever. "I've done a lot of wrestling in Japan, where mat-wrestling is commonplace. Rey, on the other hand, has spent most of his professional career in Mexico, where they do a lot of high-flying."

"When the two of us are in the ring against one another, it's all about who makes the most mistakes. I can't compete on his level as far as flying, and I don't try to. And I don't think he can compete with me on the mat. That's why I try to bring him down to the mat which is my forte, my specialty. And he, no doubt, will try to turn the match into an air show."

Malenko has been eyeing his return match for several months. He has even gone so far as to scout Mysterio during several Monday Nitro matches during the months leading up to Halloween Havoc. Malenko would walk down the ramp that leads to the ring and observe, charting mental notes of every Mysterio move.

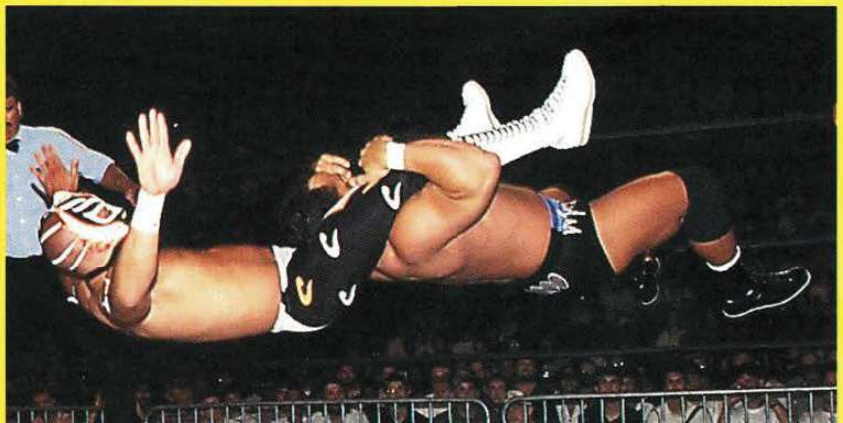
"I study a lot of wrestling — on video tape and in person — just hoping to find one flaw that I can capitalize on," Malenko said. "I will continue to watch Mysterio until I know numerous flaws in his game. I already have seen several things that I will add to my arsenal to attack him." (He would not reveal to WCW Magazine possible flaws in Mysterio's gameplan, or how he will adjust his approach because of what he has seen from Mysterio.)

The question remains, is Mysterio showing all when Malenko is watching? Maybe he too is playing mind-games? You bet, says the reigning Cruiserweight Champion.

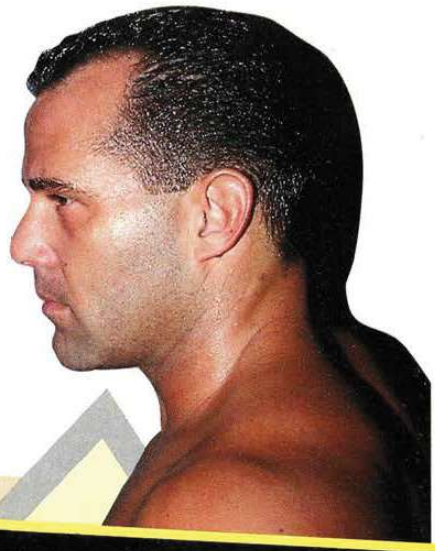
"Since I know Dean is always watching me, studying me, I don't pull out all of my moves in one match," he said, smiling.

The Malenko-Mysterio feud dates back to the summer-time Great American Bash in Baltimore, and the Monday Nitro 24 hours later. Then, about a month later, it hit full speed when Mysterio defeated Malenko on a Monday Nitro in Orlando to capture the WCW Cruiserweight title.

"When I'm in the ring against Dean, I'm often looking for the ropes



COURSE



(which forces him to break a hold) because I know I cannot out-wrestle him on the mat," Mysterio admits. "He knows a lot, an awful lot. And I respect him for that."

Respect is, no doubt, the underlying theme for this match. Each knows the other is a master of their style, that one miscue can cost the match. That's why Malenko has been watching Mysterio in person, and why Mysterio has sought help from some of the "older Mexican wrestlers" who are mat technicians. (Mysterio would not reveal which "older Mexican wrestlers" just in case Malenko heard the names and might have an added advantage of sorts.)

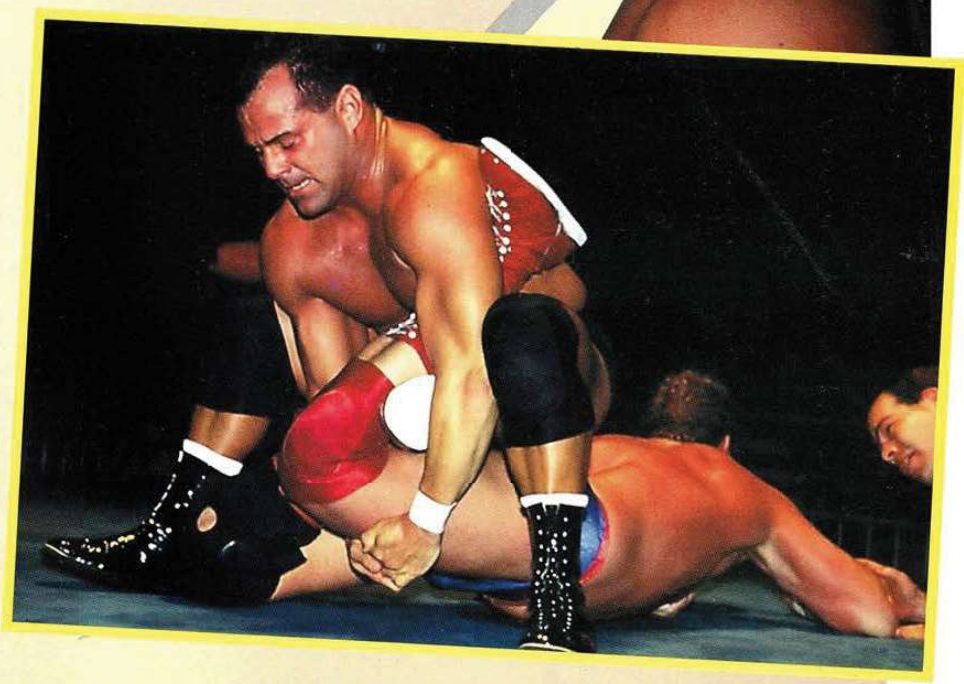
"I've said it before and I'll say it again, I enjoy wrestling the best. Rey Mysterio, Jr., certainly is one of the best in this sport. Wrestling someone like Rey brings out the best in me," Malenko said. "Unfortunately, Rey is one-of-a-kind. There are no wrestlers of his caliber anywhere in this sport, people who do what he does in the ring. So I don't have anyone to practice against; that makes it very difficult for me."

"My specialty is capitalizing on someone else's mistakes ... hopefully that's what I'll be able to do against Rey."

So who really has the advantage in this battle?

Malenko, it appears on paper, considering he has the advantage in strength, stamina and experience. However, Malenko must pin Mysterio if he wants to re-capture the Cruiserweight title, and he must pin him twice seeing that the pay-per-view war is a two-out-of-three encounter. Mysterio, it seems, enters the match with a better pre-game strategy having been able to practice Malenko's style.

"I would have to make Dean Malenko the slight favorite, but by the slightest of margins," said WCW broadcaster Mike Tenay.

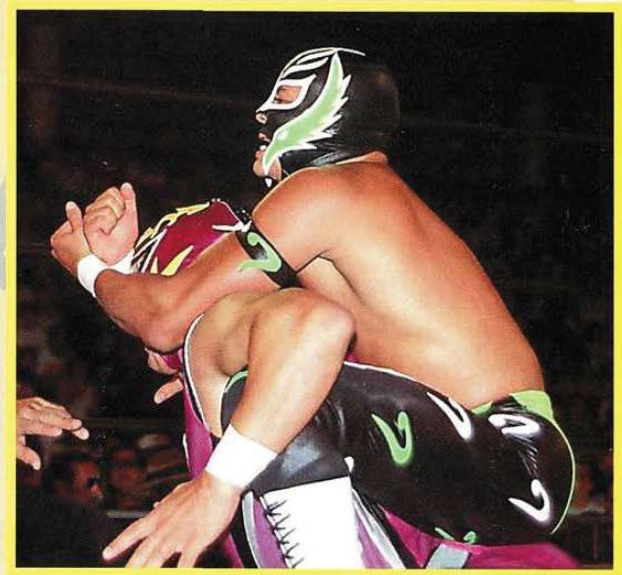


WCW Magazine Editor Colin Bowman is a huge fan of both men. He told us, "Dean certainly has the advantage over Rey in the weight and strength departments, but Mysterio is the most durable wrestler I have ever seen. No matter the amount of punishment inflicted on him, he always finds a way back. This time though, if Dean can resist the temptation to drag out the match just to punish Mysterio, he should once again emerge as the champion."

Said Mysterio, "It will be very hard for me if Dean gets the upper-hand; the pressure then will be on me. In Mexico we do a lot of two-out-of-three fall matches, so hopefully that will play to my advantage."

Eddie Guerrero has been in the ring with Malenko and has studied Mysterio for years. "This match will be a classic, a show-stealer," Guerrero said.

Set the VCR ... this will be a match for the ages.



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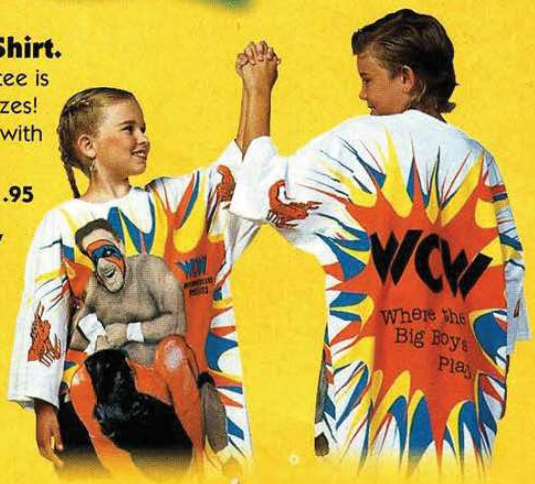

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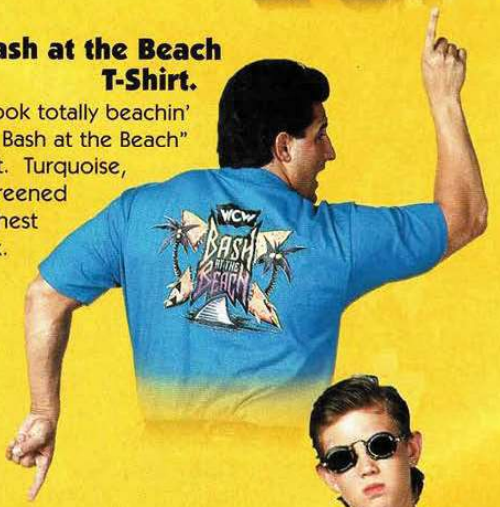

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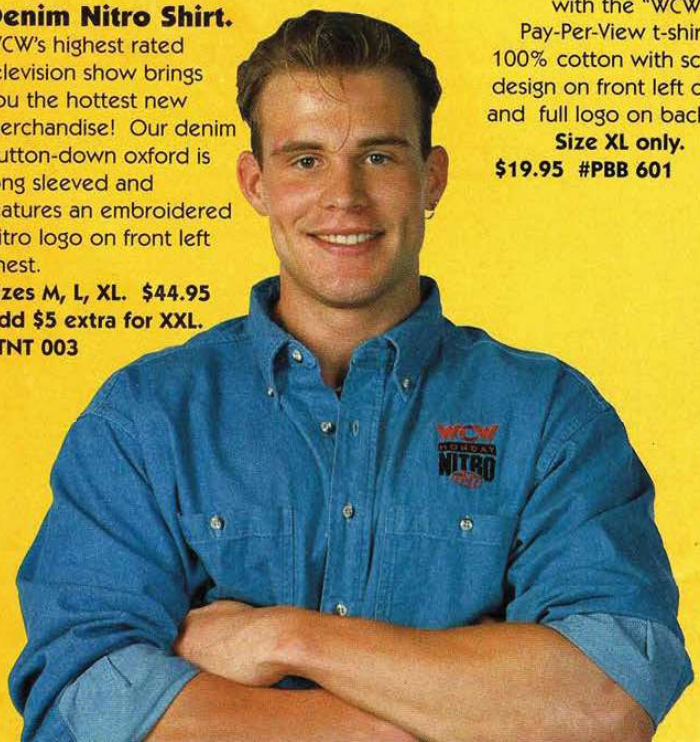

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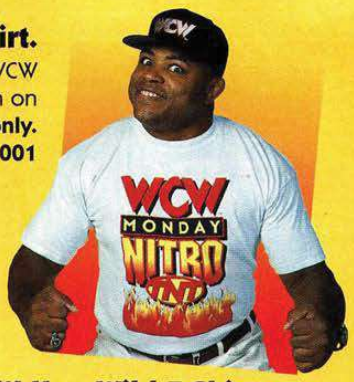

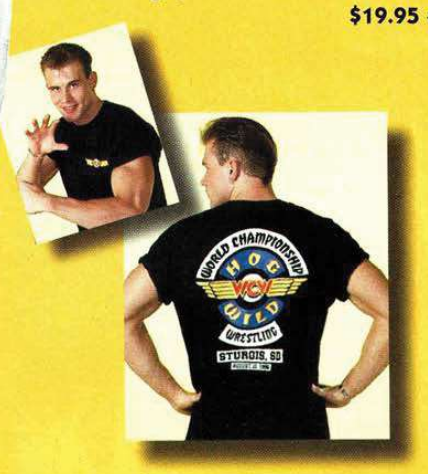

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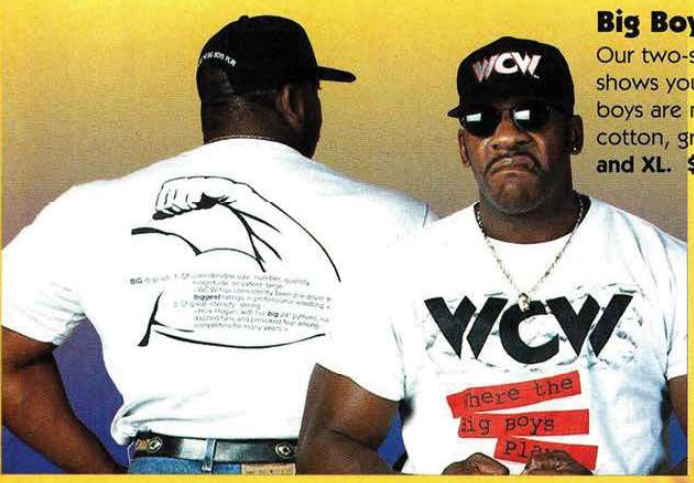

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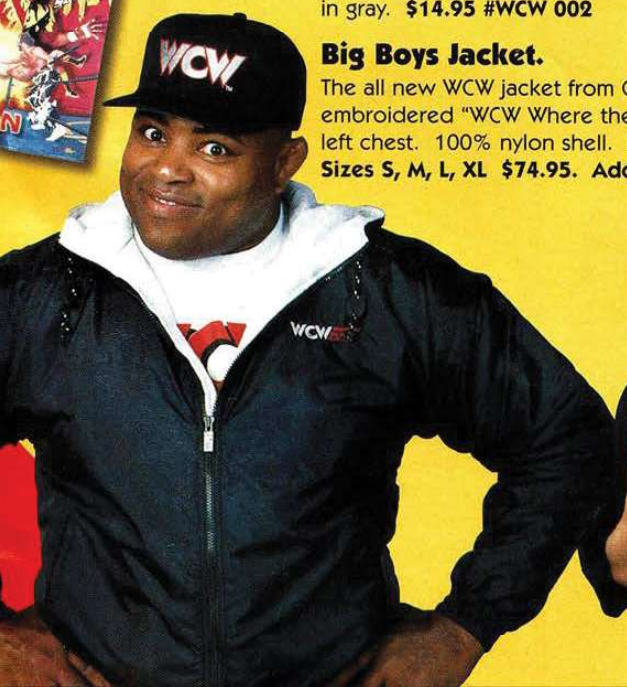

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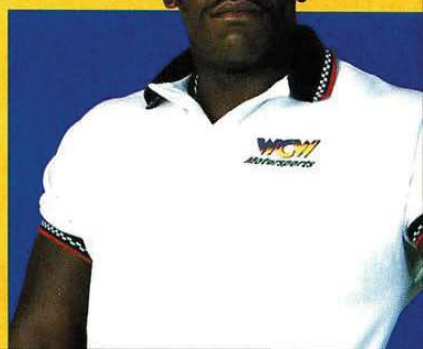

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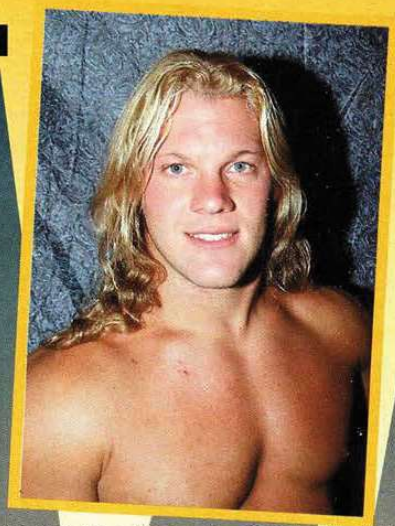
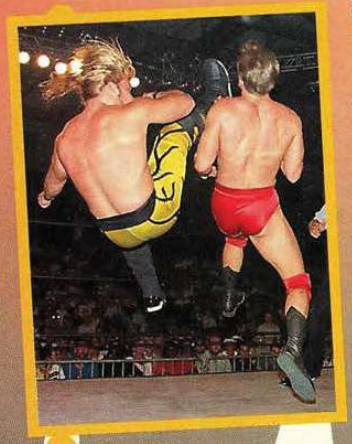


Chris Jericho's wrestling career was nurtured in Calgary, with help from Canada's national sport: hockey.

It was the 1963-64 NHL season. Edward Amos "Ted" Irvine Jericho, a 6-foot-2, 195-pound left wing for the Boston Bruins made his National Hockey League debut, albeit only one game that year. Jericho returned to the NHL for good in 1967-68, the season the NHL went ahead with the most ambitious expansion undertaking ever attempted by a major sport: it doubled in size, to 12 teams. The newcomers were Los Angeles, Oakland, Minnesota, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and St. Louis. Jericho played 73 games for the expansion Los Angeles Kings that winter, a team that finished 31-33-10. He played 76 games the following year, then 75 during the 1969-70 campaign, which he split between Los Angeles and the New York Rangers.

On Nov. 9, 1970, early into Jericho's first full season with the Rangers, he became a father to "Lionheart" Chris Jericho. Jericho went on to play 724 regular-season games in the NHL over 10 seasons, mostly with New York. He played his final two seasons with St. Louis, ending after the 1976-77 season. He tallied 154 regular-season goals, 177 assists.



"There's no doubt that my father has been a strong, positive influence on my athletic career; that's definite. At first I thought it was going to be (in) hockey, but it turned out to be wrestling," said Jericho, who played hockey (right wing) until he was 18. "I kind of knew I wasn't good enough to play in the NHL, but always loved — and still do — the sport."

Jericho, though, made the big time of pro wrestling this summer, joining the ranks of WCW. His "goon" tactics on the ice — that's his word, not ours — are replaced by sportsmanship in the ring. Consider his Monday Nitro debut on Aug. 26: he refused a win over Alex Wright who would have been counted out after the young German star hit his head on the guard-rail.

"I'm very happy to be here in WCW, very proud. This is THE place to be in professional wrestling; it's the most exciting place to be, unquestionably. Just look at the locker rooms, there are so many years of experience inside those doors," said Jericho, he of the ever-flowing golden locks, pearly whites and bronzed bod. "The one thing you can expect from Chris Jericho every time he steps into the ring is, a 100 percent effort. I always want to make sure the fans enjoy my wrestling."

The 6-foot, 225-pound Jericho has been wrestling professionally for six years, in Japan, Mexico and Canada, among other places. Hence his mix of hard-hitting (Japan) and aerial (Mexico) attacks. Jericho is part-Chris Benoit, part-Eddie Guerrero.

"I'm very thankful I've had the opportunity to work in so many different countries, to learn from all of those places; it's been very helpful," he said. "I'm not afraid to step in the ring against anyone. Be it Dean Malenko, Chris Benoit, Hugh Morrus, Meng, or anyone else. I'm confident in my wrestling and feel I can win over anyone."

Said WCW broadcaster Mike Tenay, "If, here in WCW, Chris Jericho is able to duplicate the international success he has had, he'll find his name at the top of the organization rather quickly. His style of wrestling certainly is a perfect fit for WCW. Personally, I look for big things from Chris Jericho. He has the charisma that will make him a success."

And a maneuver, a moonsault from the second rope, personally dubbed the Lionsault. With his foe slammed in the middle of the ring, Jericho hits one rope, jumps over his opponent, hits the second rope in full stride, then springs backwards onto his opponent.

"I have it down-pat so I hit it 99.9 percent of the time," Jericho said.

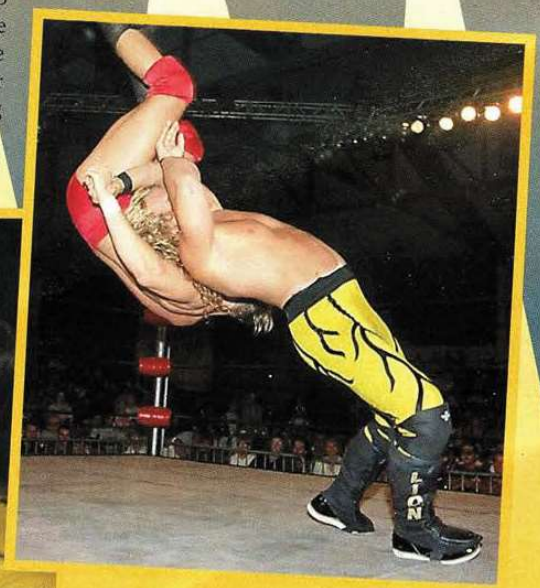
Have you ever missed the rope?

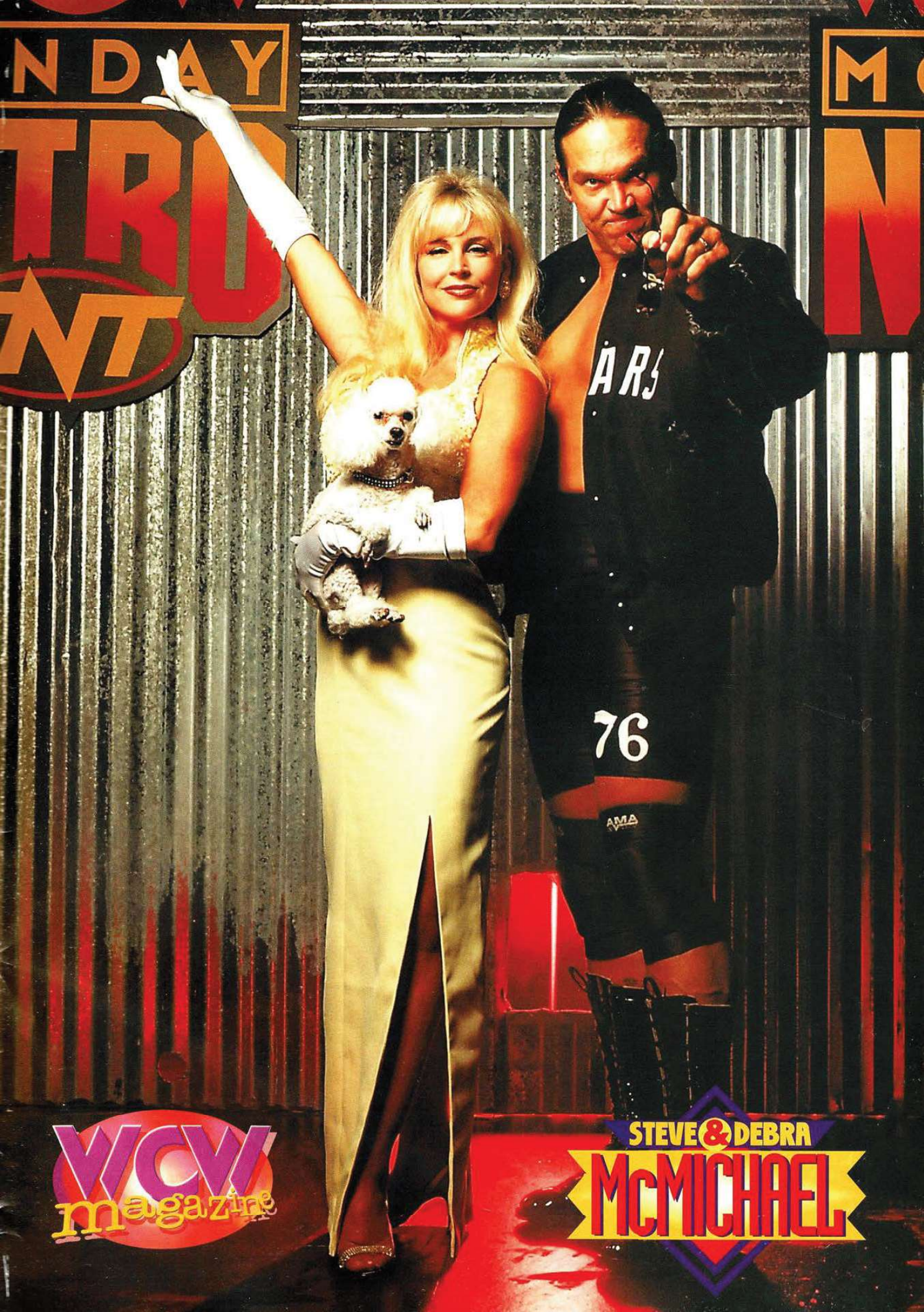
"Oh God, yes," he said, smiling. "There have been a couple of matches when I missed the rope, fell backward, landing on my head and, consequently, lost the match."

Jericho made his pay-per-view debut at Fall Brawl, against long-time rival and sometime friend Chris Benoit of The Four Horsemen.

"It was a hard-fought match, a true test of what I could do in WCW," Jericho said. "Benoit probably is one of the toughest opponents I could have faced in my first pay-per-view appearance, but I felt like I fought to the best of my ability. Just because this one match is over does not mean things are settled between Chris Benoit and myself. The war is not over."

Said Eddie Guerrero, "Chris Jericho is an outstanding wrestler who will do fantastic in WCW. More than that, he's a helluva guy away from the ring."





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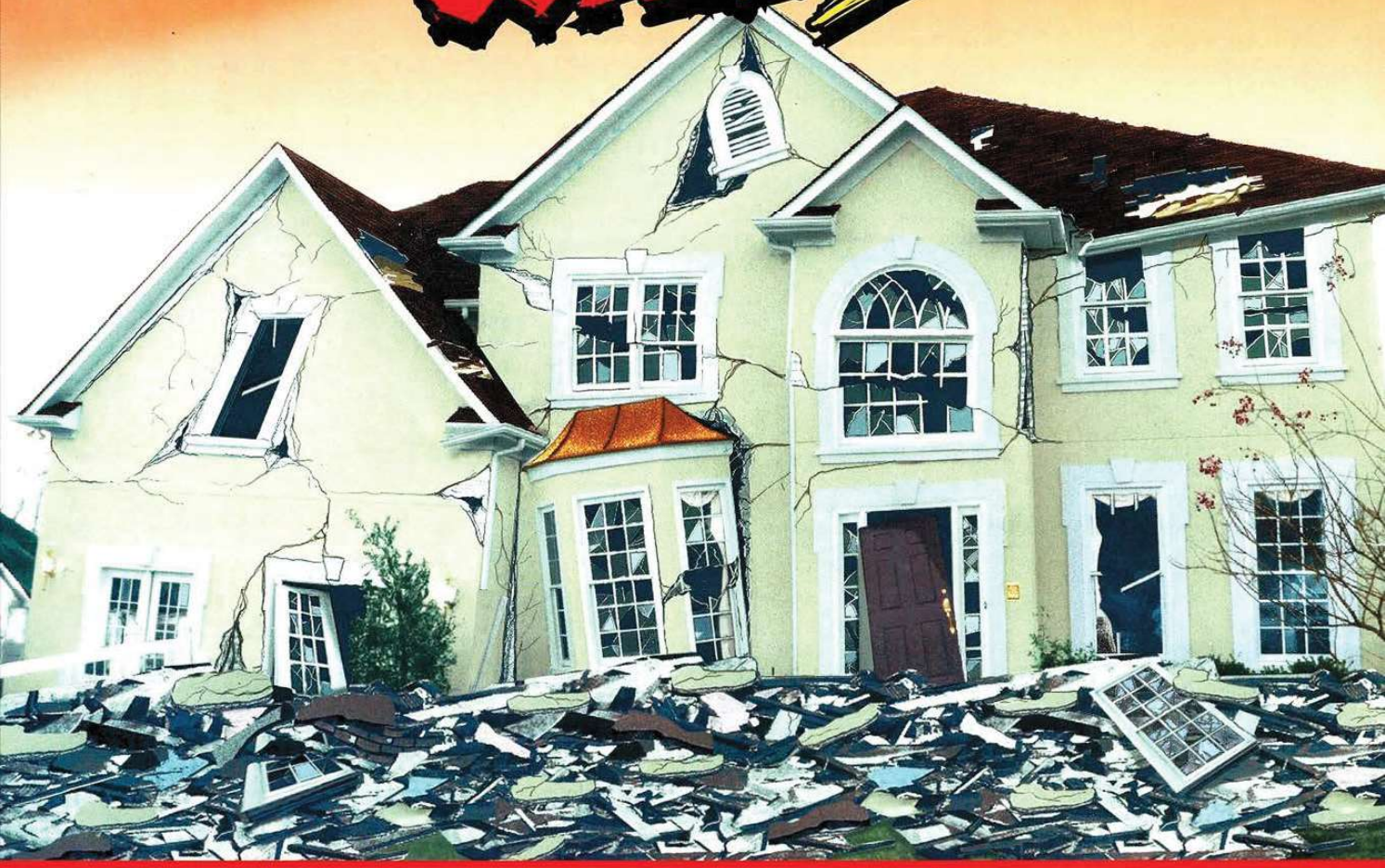

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